

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9 1990



(30p)

Politburo to be abolished says Moscow

Gorbachov moves to control bureaucracy

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Communist Party's ruling Politburo, which since Stalin's day has been the most powerful group in the Soviet Union, is to be abolished in an attempt to turn the party's power structure "on its head".

The creation of a bigger body, known as the party presidium, was approved by the Central Committee meeting which decided not to hinder progress towards a multi-party system. But a move to reduce the membership of the Central Committee was rejected.

The abolition of the Politburo was announced by Mr Ivan Frolov, the editor of *Pravda* who chairs the editorial commission finalizing the plenum documents — including the draft platform examining the party's new policy, "Towards Human Democratic Socialism".

Mr Frolov also disclosed

that proposals to slim down the Central Committee to about 200 members had been rejected. It had nearly 500 members until last April, and would in future comprise three or four hundred people, he said.

The Central Committee Secretariat is to be revamped, with each secretary taking administrative responsibility for an area of policy and a small specialist staff.

Mr Frolov said the new structure was an attempt by the leadership and the Central Committee to reassess control

over the labyrinth of departments and sub-departments which make up the party bureaucracy. It wanted, he said, to turn the power structure "on its head".

Attempts to cut the bureaucracy in the past two years have resulted in nothing more dramatic than a redistribution of largely superfluous staff, and many feel that the apparatus, not the leadership, is obstructing change.

Another purpose of the restructuring appears to be to tie the leading organs of power more closely to the lower levels of the party. It is proposed that the new presidium will count among its members the party leaders in the 15 republics — or 14 if Lithuania stands by its decision to break with Moscow.

Mr Frolov, who is regarded as a close associate of Mr Gorbachov, also gave insight into the general secretary's way of working. He said the draft party platform had been formulated almost entirely by Mr Gorbachov. Nor could it, Mr Frolov said, have been written "with one left hand and one right hand", as Mr Boris Yeltsin claimed, because the Soviet leader dictated all his documents.

Mr Frolov added that when

Continued on page 20, col 1

Nato offers new military cutback

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

As Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, began crucial disarmament talks in a Moscow mansion yesterday, Nato presented new proposals for cutting back on troops and armaments in Europe.

Mr Baker spent his first day of talks with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, trying to iron out major obstacles in the strategic arms and chemical weapons negotiations.

But he also sought reaction to President Bush's recent proposal to limit Soviet and American troops in central Europe to 195,000.

This proposal was included in the new measures tabled by Nato in Vienna yesterday at Conventional Forces in Europe talks. Nato offered the Warsaw Pact new concessions on tanks, aircraft, helicopters and armoured troop carriers. The concessions were well

Offer details, page 6

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

In a desperate move to ensure survival in the face of a spiralling deficit, the Royal Shakespeare Company is to close its two London theatres next winter. The closure should be seen as the biggest manifestation of the crisis in arts funding so far, said Mr Terry Hands, the company's artistic director.

The company faces an accumulating deficit of £2.9 million by March 1991, and the alternative to closing the Barbican and Pit theatres in the Barbican Centre from November 5 until March 18 would be "total closure", Mr Hands said yesterday. "We could not save the sum we have to save any other way," he said.

He was speaking from the Barbican Theatre stage where, ironically, the RSC

Guides in row over scouting for girls



Dr June Paterson-Brown, Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides, between statues of Lord Baden-Powell and Lady Olave Baden-Powell yesterday.

Human embryo research

Peers defeat ban move

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

Pro-life peers suffered a serious blow last night when the House of Lords voted nearly three to one in favour of continuing research on human embryos up to 14 days old.

In a key vote on the Warnock legislation, an amendment by the Duke of Norfolk, England's premier Roman Catholic peer, to ban all research was rejected by 234 votes to 30.

In rejecting the amendment, the House of Lords sent a clear signal to MPs, who will vote on the issue in the spring, that it would be wrong to ban research which has helped thousands of childless couples and could provide cures for genetic and other diseases. Peers have yet to decide on what conditions to impose.

Only Central Committee members have seen the final draft of party's platform and it will probably not be published until the weekend, but Mr Gorbachov's proposals for a multi-party system have not brought Muscovites rallying behind all his documents.

Mr Frolov added that when

Continued on page 20, col 1

Record BT profits attacked

By Graham Seaman, Financial Editor

Profits of British Telecom, which vies with BP as Britain's largest company by profits, reached a new record of more than £2 billion before tax for the nine months to end December, 7.8 per cent higher than a year ago.

The 3.2 per cent average rise in regulated prices, mainly on exchange lines, imposed in September helped turnover and profits accelerate in the final quarter of 1989.

BT raised capital spending over the period by 13.7 per cent to £2.28 billion and has now converted a third of all customers' lines onto digital telephone exchanges.

But the profits, which amounted to 22 per cent of BT's £9 billion turnover, were quickly criticized by several Labour MPs.

Full story, page 21

Move to speed victims' payment

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office seemed poised last night to agree an immediate increase in staffing at the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board after the organization was bitterly criticized by MPs.

A call for the government-funded board, which compensates victims of violent crime, to receive 60 extra staff would receive "urgent consideration", the department said.

A report published yesterday by the all-party Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs said it was unacceptable that three-quarters of victims had to wait over a year for a decision.

Staffing levels had failed to keep pace with rapid increases in workload, and the board had sunk into a "bureaucratic nightmare", the MPs said.

About 100,000 claims were outstanding and the backlog was rising.

Sir John Wheeler, the committee chairman, described as trivial the amount of money needed to speed up payments.

"Every qualifying victim of violence should... be encouraged to apply and should be sure that his or her claim will be dealt with within a

reasonable time — we set the modest target of a year."

Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, the board's chairman and a former Conservative Cabinet minister, said that in the past funding and staff increases had "never come on time".

The Home Office claimed the scheme, allowing compensation of £750 or more, was the "most generous of its kind in the world". But it said MPs had been right to draw attention to delays.

No redundancies are planned but 65 to 70 London stage staff will take a 50 per cent pay cut.

The RSC has written to the Government asking it to meet funding levels recommended in a 1984 Cabinet Office paper.

The English National Ballet has appointed a stand-in artistic director after the dismissal last week of Mr Peter Schaufuss. She is Miss Elizabeth Anderton, previously his assistant.

80 years on, a bastion crumbles

By Alan Hamilton

The Girl Guides were less than ecstatic yesterday at the news that their brother organization, the Scout Association, is, after 80 years, to open its tents to females.

"It is simply that there are a lot of girls who want to be Scouts rather than Guides."

None the less the news was received with "extreme disappointment" by Dr June Paterson-Brown, Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides Association, especially as it comes at the end of a two-year joint working party which

examined a number of possible avenues of closer co-operation between the two organizations.

"This decision has come at the wrong time; they have gone too far too soon. They are also out of step; youth services in general have gone full circle and now generally tend to favour single-sex activity again," Dr Paterson-Brown said.

The Guides hinted strongly that they would be increasing

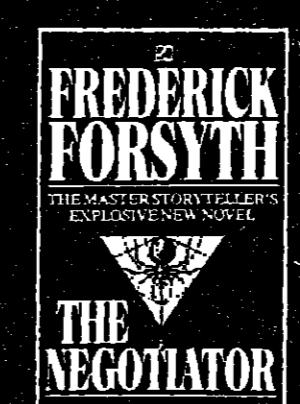
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'The master has not lost his touch'

DAILY MAIL

FREDERICK FORSYTH

HIS NEW NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER



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INSIDE

Portfolio PLATINUM

• There were no winners of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize, which therefore accumulates to £4,000. Today's chance to win is on page 27

Attack case man in court

By David Sapsted

An unemployed labourer, Russell Bishop, aged 23, of Lewes Road, Brighton, was remanded in custody by Brighton magistrates yesterday, accused of the attempted murder, kidnap and indecent assault of a seven-year-old girl last weekend.

Mr Bishop was remanded in custody until February 15 but he will not have to appear until next month. There was no bail application and he was granted legal aid. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

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Not to be or not to be...



is currently enjoying unprecedented success at the Barbican with *A Clockwork Orange*, which opened this week and is sold out. So are *Hamlet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Show Boat* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford, due to open next week, has 88 per cent of seats sold. The RSC earns £1 million a year from the success of its *Les Misérables* production, and is negotiating new sponsorship with Royal Insurance.

The company faces an accumulating deficit of £2.9 million by March 1991, and the alternative to closing the Barbican and Pit theatres in the Barbican Centre from November 5 until March 18 would be "total closure", Mr Hands said yesterday. "We could not save the sum we have to save any other way," he said.

He was speaking from the Barbican Theatre stage where, ironically, the RSC

The closure is expected to save £1.7 million, but a deficit of nearly £1.7 million will remain. Because of this, the winter programme including a new musical for Christmas, *Children Of Eden*, and as yet unscheduled new plays for The Pit going "back to the drawing-board".

No redundancies are planned but 65 to 70 London stage staff will take a 50 per cent pay cut.

The RSC has written to the Government asking it to meet funding levels recommended in a 1984 Cabinet Office paper.

The English National Ballet has appointed a stand-in artistic director after the dismissal last week of Mr Peter Schaufuss. She is Miss Elizabeth Anderton, previously his assistant.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Setback for care home campaign

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister of State, Department of Health, dealt a double blow yesterday to supporters of attempts to tighten legislation controlling the ownership of residential care homes for the elderly.

She ruled out legislation requiring owners to register with their local authority and refused to consider giving the police power to pass on information on prospective owners. Both measures had been included in an amendment to the NHS and Community Care Bill being considered by a House of Commons standing committee.

To placate mounting pressure from all sides of the House she agreed to reconsider improvements. She did not want to burden small businesses with unnecessary bureaucracy in spite of evidence that people with criminal records, and barred from running homes under the Registered Homes Act 1986, were back in business because of a legal loophole. Homes which care for up to three people do not have to be registered or inspected and an increasing number of owners get round the law by caring for only three people.

Child care tax help

Working mothers could be offered extra help with child care as a result of plans being considered by the Conservative party (Nicholas Wood writes). Employers would be encouraged to give staff vouchers which could cashed at nurseries of their choice and the Government would exempt the perk from income tax.

The tax exemption could be included in the Budget, although it seems likely to be adopted later. The move follows concern about labour shortages and pressure on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to stop taxing nurseries.

New 999 protest call

Leaders of the ambulance unions are today likely to call for further mass demonstrations of support when they meet to discuss the deadlocked 22-week-old dispute (Tim Jones writes). Union chiefs are hoping they can embarrass Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, back to the negotiating table. Some London shop stewards who yesterday suggested opening up local pay negotiations as a way of resolving the dispute were heavily outvoted.

Victim wins £6,000

A man who claimed he was beaten up by vice squad officers was yesterday awarded nearly £6,000 by a high court. A jury in Leeds agreed that Mr Glendin Spencer, a Rastafarian aged 34, was subjected to unreasonable force when arrested outside a drinking club. Mr Spencer, of Hovingham Mount, Leeds, had sued West Yorkshire Police for wrongful imprisonment, malicious prosecution and unlawful violence after the incident in 1985.

Noriega assets frozen

A High Court judge yesterday ordered the freezing of assets held in British bank accounts by General Noriega on behalf of American investigators trying to trace profits from alleged drug trafficking by the former Panamanian leader (Stewart Tindall writes). General Noriega is in Florida awaiting trial for drug offences, while the Americans have tried to track down his assets in a several countries including Britain, Switzerland, Luxembourg and France.

Heddle remembered

A memorial service for Mr John Heddle, the MP for Mid Staffordshire found dead in his car in December, heard yesterday that he was haunted by a "fear of failure". His Conservative colleague and friend, Mr David Lightfoot, MP for neighbouring South East Staffordshire, told the congregation at Lichfield Cathedral: "He wasn't a perfect man, but on the scales of decency and justice he will always be known as a kind man." The inquest reopens on Thursday.

Cartilage 'listening' device is top invention

A computerised machine capable of "listening" for torn cartilages in knees won first prize in the Design Council's Invention Toshiba Year of Innovation Awards yesterday.

The machine, which also took first prize in the university and college section, was designed by a team from Queen's University, Belfast, led by Dr Gavin Tait.

Third prize in the schools section went to Richard Lea-

Lawyers and MPs tackle the changing face of British broadcasting**Court cases should be shown on television, say barristers**

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Court cases in England and Wales should be televised as an experiment, the Bar Council said yesterday.

It called for pilot projects covering civil and criminal proceedings and tribunals, but not cases involving divorce or children.

The council is to table amendments to the Broadcasting Bill which would allow the experiments funded by television companies, to go ahead. Mr Roger Henderson, QC, chairman of the council's public affairs committee, said: "Our belief is that it would be of great benefit to open justice and generally increase our understanding of how far the courts work."

There would be strict rules covering what could be filmed, with no shots, for example, of juries, rape victims or witnesses whose iden-

tity was protected by law. Editing would be at the discretion of news organizations.

Cases would be recorded under a pooling arrangement with videotapes being made available to any broadcaster that wanted to use them.

The Bar's amendment comes in the wake of a working party report backing an experiment. The legal profession is split on the merits of televising the courts; but Mr Henderson said one opposed a pilot scheme.

Mr Jonathan Caplan, who

championed the working party, said he did not believe the move would encourage lawyers and judges to "act up" to the cameras, partly because live coverage would be the exception — with most broadcasts involving recorded material; and partly because the judge would have the power to

exclude the cameras if someone sought to abuse them.

Mr Caplan said that allowing cameras to improve public access to court proceedings. At present, people relied on press reports or broadcasts from outside the court building, even though the courts were open to the public.

"It would enhance the public's understanding of and confidence in our legal system, the judiciary and the decisions of our courts," he said.

A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor — who would be instrumental in any government decision to allow a change in the law — said yesterday: "The Government will have to weigh the proposed benefit against the disadvantages of extra stress on witnesses; the intrusion that might be caused and the whole question of cost."

An amendment to the

Broadcasting Bill successfully moved last night by Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, will mean the range of programmes will be "in terms of cost of acquisition as well as in terms of the types of programme involved". The stipulation is

BBC and ITV will have to commission a quarter of their best and most expensive programming, rather than just cheap games shows and sports coverage, from Britain's blossoming independent sector.

Until now the 25 per cent provision for independents has referred to allocation of time, and independent companies feared the 2,500 hours of programme-making commissioned from them would involve inexpensive programming on the fringe of TV schedules.

An amendment to the Broadcasting Bill successfully moved last night by Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, will mean the range of programmes will be "in terms of cost of acquisition as well as in terms of the types of programme involved". The stipulation is

intended to guarantee that quality programmes flourish in the 1990s, the Home Office said last night.

Mr Paul Styles, director of the Independent Programme Producers' Association, said: "The minister is now saying he wants independents to be paid to make programmes of all types, which will include prime time and expensive programming."

Mr David Shaw, director of the ITV Association, said: "We have no problem with this amendment. It reflects what ITV companies are already doing. If anything, they have been commissioning from independents a greater slice of expensive programming."

Further measures to guarantee the quality of independent television programmes may be incorporated in the

Broadcasting Bill, MPs were told yesterday.

Mr Mellor said he and colleagues would consider making it explicit in the legislation that independent television franchises could go to makers of outstanding programmes rather than to the highest bidder.

He also told the Commons committee studying the Bill that he was considering changing the Bill to insist upon bidders providing programmes of high quality across the whole range of schedules.

At present, it requires only that they provide a "suitable proportion" of high-quality programmes.

"It is also clear that those engaged in Liverpool will have received substantial sums of money by way of payment, though it is a remarkable feature of this case that at the end of the day no one seems to have any identifiable assets left."

Judge Ebsworth said production line workers at Halewood had taped the stolen car parts to their bodies or clothing and walked out of the Halewood plant with them.

Security defects at Halewood and a union-management agreement not to carry out body searches without the employees' consent allowed the large-scale theft.

Robert James Whyatt, aged 41, a parts dealer, of Billericay, Essex, was sentenced to four years in prison and ordered to pay £25,000 towards prosecution costs for conspiring to handle stolen goods. He denied the charge.

Ian Paul Ainsworth, aged 36, of Illingworth Road, Preston, Lancashire, a parts dealer, was sentenced to two years.

£68 million. Mr Jack Straw, Labour education spokesman, said last night: "The vice-chancellors have been snubbed by the Government before on the issue of a graduate tax.

"I do not think the vice-chancellors will be any more popular at Downing Street than were the

• An extra £4 million will be made available from April to boost the number of computers in primary schools. Mr Alan Howarth, under-secretary of state for education, said yesterday. There were already an average of 30 microcomputers in every secondary school and three in every primary school, he said.

• Berkshire is to offer incentive bonuses to supply teachers in order to boost the number of staff available to cover for teachers absent through sickness or on courses.

Universities will offer to run loan scheme

By Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

The universities are to offer to take over the Government's student loan scheme in return for concessions over the way it is to be run.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals meets today to finalize the offer which it believes will prove attractive to ministers after the decision by the high street banks to pull out of the scheme.

It will tell the Government that it could save substantial sums of public money by winding up the Glasgow-based Student Loans Company and handing over administration of the scheme to universities, polytechnics and colleges.

The proposal, which has yet to be discussed with polytechnic directors, will be put to Mr John

MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, who has invited university heads to a meeting later this month. The vice-chancellors believe the Government is open to persuasion because the scheme has proved universally unpopular in its existing form.

In return for assuming responsibility for student loans, the vice-chancellors are seeking big concessions on the shape of the system. In particular they want the Government to move at once to its ultimate goal of replacing grants with loans, a step which would mean abandoning the interim "top-up" formula.

Under the existing scheme, from September students will be able to borrow £420 a year (£460 if they study in London). At the same time the value of the student grant is to be

frozen at £2,265 a year (£2,845 in London). The size of loan offered is due to be increased steadily until loan and grant account for equal proportions of student financial support by the end of the century.

The vice-chancellors want the means-tested grant scrapped and replaced with a larger value loan to which all students would be entitled. This would be repaid through the personal tax system.

The high street banks, which walked out of talks with ministers on the scheme just before Christmas, had been offered a £12.4-million administration fee for handing payment and collection.

However the universities, which already have staff for distributing local authority grant cheques to students, argue that they could do the job for much less. Under the

scheme, the Treasury would pay money for student loans directly to the universities as part of their annual block grant.

New funding arrangements, to be introduced from next year, link the payment of government grants to universities to their ability to recruit students, so it would be comparatively easy to allocate loan funds.

While they will seek administrative fees, the vice-chancellors believe the cost could be met by the savings the Treasury will make from stopping social security benefits to full-time students from this autumn.

However Mr Robert Jackson, under-secretary of state for education, told the Commons committee scrutinizing the Student Loans Bill that, while the scheme would cost £178 million in the first year, savings would only amount to

Stevens set to wind up collusion investigation

By Edward German, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Mr John Stevens, the Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, is hoping to "guillotine" his inquiry into collusion in Northern Ireland by the end of next month, according to police sources.

Mr Stevens is said to have decided to finish his investigations unless he encounters intervening events of extraordinary significance. His report into allegations of collusion between members of the security forces and Protestant paramilitary groups is expected to be delivered to Mr Hugh Annesley, the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, at about the same time.

Mr Stevens will then close the inquiry's headquarters at Antrim Road police station, Belfast, and hand any outstanding files of inquiry to the RUC as his detectives return to the mainland.

Mr Stevens' decision comes after recent publicity stunts by "loyalist" paramilitaries aimed at bogging the investigation down in Northern Ireland, and he is said to be prepared for further demands of defiance.

Officers originally hoped to bring their activities to an end by the end of January, but events have forced them to reassess the timescale.

The decision also underlines the belief among the Stevens team that the report,

the analysis of the problem, and the recommendations which flow from it, are as important as bringing large numbers of offenders before the courts.

To date, the inquiry has resulted in 48 people being charged with offences including possessing collects of withholding information likely to be used by terrorists.

The police did not officially confirm his detention but said a number of people had been brought in for questioning.

Step nearer for Prince's volunteers

The Prince of Wales with Senator Collor de Mello, president-elect of Brazil, who is on a world tour, in London yesterday.

By David Walker
Public Administration Correspondent

A plan by the Prince of Wales to raise young people in a national programme of voluntary work drew a step nearer yesterday with the publication by The Prince's Trust of the first practical details of the £100 million-a-year scheme.

One in seven aged between 16 and 24 would join Young Volunteers in the Community by 2000. Working away from home in "placements" of up to 18 weeks, they would mix with young people from other backgrounds and together develop a sense of common citizenship, the trust says.

Placements might include taking part in sport or outdoor activities and participants, both employed and un-

employed, would receive a certificate.

The trust is at present negotiating with the departments of Social Security and of Employment, as well as with the Home Secretary. It wants Cabinet approval for relaxation on the rate requiring unemployed youth to show they are actively seeking work before qualifying for social security so that participation in Young Volunteers in the Community would not make them financially worse off.

Mr Tom Shebbeare, director of the trust, emphasized yesterday that the scheme fitted closely with government ideas about wealth creation by promoting self-reliance, which was said, at the heart of the enterprise culture.

The Prince of Wales, together with Mr Bernard

Weatherhill, Speaker of the House of Commons, are to launch the scheme at St James's Palace in April. The Speaker is patron of the Commission on Citizenship, which has been collaborating on the plan.

The scheme, on an initial budget of £2.6 million paid for by Whitehall and private

sponsors, aims to attract 7,000 placements within two years for voluntary groups or the Government's Training and Enterprise councils.

However, the scheme has been criticized by Community Service Volunteers (CSV), one of the largest youth volunteer groups. Mrs Elisabeth Hoyle, executive director of CSV, said there was a "lack of realism" in the plan and asked what incentives would be built in to the scheme to ensure employers released young employees to take part.

Young Volunteers in the Community: A consultation paper. The Prince's Trust, 8 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 1BA.

Conspirators jailed**'Army of dishonest staff' stole at Ford**

By Ronald Faux

Members of a team which conspired to steal car parts worth £4 million from the Ford plant at Halewood, Merseyside, were jailed for up to two years. He admitted conspiracy.

Robert Kennedy, aged 37, of Liverpool, admitted conspiracy to handle stolen goods and received 180 hours' community service and was ordered to pay £500.

Stephen William Jones, aged 34, a Ford production worker, of Dingle, Liverpool, was jailed for nine months after admitting conspiring to steal parts, his wife Lynn Jones, aged 33, was conditionally discharged for two years for handling stolen goods. She denied the charge.

Robert Croty, aged 29, of Chadwell Heath, Essex, was jailed for 21 months. He had denied conspiracy. Robert Jones, aged 38, of Stockbridge village, Merseyside, received two years, and Colin Charles Rust, aged 42, of Romford, Essex, 18 months. Both admitted conspiracy.

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Sweet victory in court for British plastic lemon

By Michael Horsnell

The £1.5 million case of the rival plastic lemons ended in victory for the British variety yesterday when the Law Lords ruled against its American competitor.

MPs say compensation claims backlog is scandalous

Victims of violent crime 'being injured twice over'

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Victims of violent crime are effectively being injured twice over because of a "scandalous" backlog of claims at the publicly-funded Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, an all-party Commons committee said yesterday.

In a withering appraisal, the Select Committee on Home Affairs painted a picture of an organization chronically under-funded, sapped by poor morale and caught in a spiralling decline in which staff were being diverted from case work to investigate complaints about delays.

The committee was also concerned that, in spite of an ever-increasing number of claims, fewer than a quarter of victims of violent crime applied for compensation from the board.

There was a vast reservoir of suffering which, the report said, the organization had a duty to try to mitigate.

Particularly worrying were the relatively few claims submitted relating to child abuse. MPs learnt while compiling the report that this was largely because many parents and council social services departments did not know the scheme existed.

The board has about

100,000 claims outstanding, the equivalent of over 600 man years of work. Three-quarters of applicants have to wait more than a year for payment compared with a quarter five years ago.

As applications have risen, productivity has slumped. Last year the board's 312 workers resolved, on average, 125 claims each, whereas in 1980, 155 employees each dealt with 170 claims.

Dismissing earlier attempts to improve efficiency as "sticking plaster solutions", the report proposed the immediate recruitment of 60 staff, better forecasting of demand by the Home Office and the urgent installation of new technology at the board's

London office, described as a "world of filing cabinets and heaps of paper".

However, the MPs suggested that the long-term solution to the Board's problems could lie with the quango being transformed into a Whitehall agency. This, they said, would increase the management's independence and probably improve the chances of staff meeting productivity targets.

Pointing out that the Government had only recently renewed pledges to do more to assist crime victims, they stated: "The most tangible way of helping the victim is by providing compensation. The scandalous backlog which has built up in the board has

meant that a system designed to help victims is instead frustrating them."

The MPs said the organization, which when it was set up in 1964 was hailed as one of the most innovative schemes of its kind in the world, had to be set higher productivity targets but given more staff to achieve an "acceptable in-road" into the backlog.

"We would certainly expect to see a more ambitious target than 48,000 for the number of resolutions next year and a productivity target higher than 150 per staff member," the report said.

Of paramount importance was the need to improve office technology. MPs said they were "startled" to find that an organization which processed such a large amount of paperwork was virtually devoid of computers. In 1982 an independent scrutiny had castigated its record-keeping system and recommended computerization but nothing had been done.

The report also recommended:

- An investigation into how the board might better publicize its work.
- An immediate campaign to publicize the entitlement of

child abuse victims to make

claims.

● Relaxation of Whitehall rules to allow recruitment of temporary staff.

● That the board made greater efforts to learn from the private sector, particularly insurance firms and management consultants.

In addition, MPs suggested that claimants who failed to attend hearings which they had requested should be penalized and that the courts

might consider assessing compensation payable in minor cases.

The report said more publicity for the board's work would inevitably increase its workload but claimed funding would have to be found to meet "these legitimate claims and meet them quickly".

There should be no question of trying to reduce the board's backlog by being coy about its existence," it added.

After the report's release, Sir

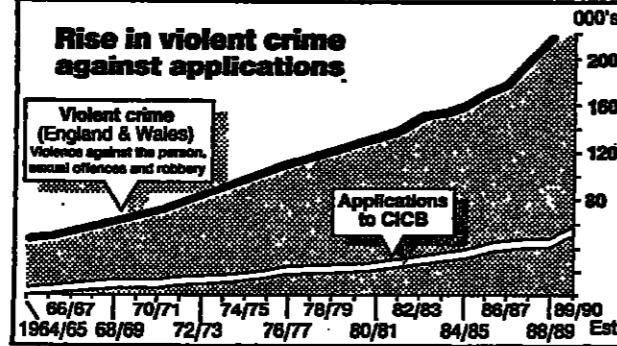
Frustration caused by delays

The "interminable" delays, which can affect even the most minor claims, frustrate victims and add to their anxiety, said Mrs Alex McDonnell, co-ordinator of a victim support scheme in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear (Quentin Cowdry writes).

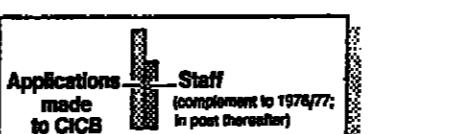
"There is no rhyme or reason in the delays," she said. "Someone who has had his nose broken in a bar brawl can sometimes wait for 12 to 14 months for a decision, while a more serious assault can be settled quicker. But the general picture is one of interminable delays".

Mrs McDonnell, whose scheme is one of dozens around Britain sponsored by the charity, Victim Support, says the worst case on her books involves a widow, aged 53, who suffered severe psychological problems after being threatened by an armed robber. "The incident happened in August 1988 yet the woman has still not got through the second stage in the process," she said.

Mrs McDonnell whose team of five paid staff and 60 volunteers counsel crime victims said: "The victims tend to get very despondent. We always say, to prevent them building false hopes, that compensation could take up to two years".



Staff rises in relation to growing claims backlog



British wary of taking an interest in personal finances, survey says

By John Young

Britain appears to be a nation of "fritters" who neither know, nor in many cases, care too much about the state of their personal finances, according to a Gallup survey published yesterday.

Only two out of five people questioned in the survey claimed to know exactly how much they had in their current bank accounts. Most of the rest said they knew roughly, but one in eight admitted to having little or no idea.

Nearly a third had no idea what the basic rate of tax was, and nearly 44 per cent did not know what proportion of their income went in tax.

Almost nine out of 10 claimed they were confident about handling their finances, although nearly a third said they did not really like dealing with money matters. Most people relied on their own or their partner's financial advice, and only 6 per cent employed a professional accountant.

Nearly a third said they would rather spend money than save it. Only one in four knew what percentage of income was saved regularly each month; most conceded that they just put their money in a building society to look after itself, and rarely if ever moved their savings to obtain a better rate of return.

One person in three was unable to estimate what he or she was worth.

Many of those who did so omitted one or more assets such as houses, cars, pensions, insurance policies, jewellery, antiques, furniture and household goods, and even savings.

The study was com-

sioned by American Express to mark the launch of a financial planning company, Acuma, and involved interviews with 937 adults with a broad mix of ages and backgrounds, who all held bank or building society accounts.

The survey concludes that "in some of the most important and financial areas of life people have failed to make even the most minimal of plans. It appears from the Gallup research that the majority of respondents exist in a state of ignorance about their finances — and they appear not to mind."

"Why enter the maze when they don't need to, seems the most common reaction."

The company plans to offer individual financial advice "packages" for £245 which, it claims is much less than the cost of similar work from an accountant or solicitor.

Other possible explanations for the cavalier British attitude might be the view that there is more to life than money or that people's affairs are in such a mess that they cannot bear to look beyond the next painful letter from the bank manager.

Mr John Crewe, Acuma's executive vice-president, conceded yesterday that some of those who came for advice, might be making a cry for help, and that the company would not be able to sort out all their problems.

However, it would do its best, and would do so objectively, even if that meant advising more caution in the use of their American Express cards.

They then scuttled away in breathless triumph, refusing to give their names.

This is the behavioural pattern of new romantic man, who shuns the modern tacky valentine cards which come mainly in categories of "humorous and cute".

Lesser romances may pay a few pence for 1990-vintage cards featuring teddy bears, rude messages or both.

Yesterday's bidders included a man from Chelsea who paid £550 for a "valentine fan" decorated with pretty floral pictures and verses (estimate £60 to £100).

A man from Devon paid the top price of £385 (estimate £80 to £150) for an early nineteenth century heart-shaped card.

However, it would be a mistake to get the impression that either Victorian love or the new antique-card buyer consists solely of sacrifice and devotion.

One buyer paid £140 for a group of "humorous cards" including one which says:

It's an ill wind that blows no good for craftsman

NICK ROGERS



Jim Partridge, aged 36, a woodworker, carving a bench at his home in Oswestry, Shropshire. Since the 1987 storm he has developed his skill with a chain saw to make seats and benches from fallen trees. Mr Partridge, who also creates smaller items, expects to be in increasing demand after the latest gales.

Love-sick new romantics descend on old valentines

SALE ROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

example which opens to reveal 24 mournful verses, concluding:

"For if you will thus cruel be,
And hasten my sad destiny,
Pale death at last must stand,
My friend, And bring my Sorrows to an end."

Victorian senders were obligingly reticent about adding their own messages to those printed on the cards, and so today's lovers need have few fears of finding messages such as "SWALK" (Sealed With A Loving Kiss) spelling out their card.

However, it would be a mistake to get the impression that either Victorian love or the new antique-card buyer consists solely of sacrifice and devotion.

Finally, the rich but disaffected lover can find the ultimate gift: a large, post-modernist cage. Intended for birds, it could be adapted for humans. It is on offer at £18,000 within two minutes.

The sale was something of a coup for Mr Robert Brooks, the young auctioneer who left Christie's recently to set up on his own.

Other rare Aston Martins

Record £1.4m for Aston Martin coupé

The most charismatic Aston Martin ever to come on the market fetched £1.4 million at Donington Park, Leicestershire, yesterday. The price was just below estimate (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

The vehicle, nicknamed "Ivy" after its number plate of 1 VEY, was one of only 19 Zagato-bodied DB4GT two-door closed coupes built by the Aston Martin company. It once belonged to Mr John Oiger's private stable at Essex and was raced by Jim Clark in the 1960s.

The price for the vehicle, including the premium, was £1.45 million. It was a world record for a "closed" Aston Martin.

The vehicle was bought by Mr William Loughran, a classic car dealer, of Preston, Lancashire, who stayed the course as bids rose dramatically from £800,000 to £1.4 million within two minutes.

The sale was something of a coup for Mr Robert Brooks, the young auctioneer who left Christie's recently to set up on his own.

Other rare Aston Martins

fetched between £42,000 and £480,000. A Ferrari made more than £150,000.

Sotheby's has conquered the Japanese wine market, judging from the results of its sale in Tokyo yesterday.

Sotheby's total of 79.8 million yen (£320,000) entailed an increase of 80 per cent more than the total at any previous sale. Top price was £48,146 (double estimate) for a complete set of Chateau Mouton Rothschild wines from 1945 to 1986.

The Northern Ireland Queen's Gallantry medal awarded to Corporal G A Meredith for "leadership, fortitude, compassion, personal courage and stamina" offered due to the financial straits of its recipient, was withdrawn yesterday from auction at Sotheby's after a private sale to his regiment.

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Other rare Aston Martins

Southerners bemoan their lot

By Libby Jukes

The grass in the South is not necessarily greener than elsewhere in Britain, according to a survey of the Home Counties

Teachers may have to stay with same primary pupils

By David Tyler, Education Editor

Primary teachers may be asked to stay with one class for its progression through school under proposals now being considered by a government minister.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education and Science, believes the change would benefit both teachers and children.

She said in Copenhagen yesterday: "More and more children are coming from families where partners change and to have the same teacher throughout their time in school would give a kind of security in what must be a bewildering environment."

"It would be good for a child to have one teacher they could work well with and with whom they could discuss any difficulties."

Mrs Rumbold was speaking at the end of a four-day visit to Denmark where the same teacher stays with a class from seven to 16. She is, however, unlikely to recommend the system for secondary schools where she believes pupils have sufficient maturity to deal with changes of teachers.

The Government's concern about standards of teaching in primary school is highlighted by the annual report of the chief inspector of schools, published this week.

Mrs Rumbold believes her

class teacher proposal could make life more interesting for the primary teachers and improve standards.

"It would be good for the teachers who would have to renew their skills and check their knowledge every year to move on with their class instead of doing the same thing every year. I am sure it would be more stimulating and more productive for them."

Mrs Rumbold was also impressed by the Danish system of teacher training where a practice school is attached to the training college. She said she would consider ways of achieving communication between colleges and schools in

Higher grades target

A national campaign to increase the educational achievement of Scotland's school leavers was called for yesterday by Mr Hamish Morrison, chief executive of the Scottish Council, Development and Industry. He suggested that an appropriate target to set would be five standard grade passes by 60 per cent of pupils by 2001, which is already achieved in West Germany.

While he had high hopes for Scottish Enterprise, the new development and training body, he believed that vocational training on its own would not provide the competitiveness necessary to succeed in the new Europe.

"If we are to be as economically successful as we hope, by the end of the century some 33 per cent of our working population must be qualified for professional or managerial occupations," he said. "Unless we can reach our target for educational achievement, all the vocational training in the world will not prevent us slipping down the European league table."

England and Wales. "Teaching is a skilled job and it does not matter how clever you are on a subject if you cannot communicate with the children. We need to extend the amount of practical training for our teachers."

The minister said the Government would consider nominating some schools to play a greater role in teacher training. Extra resources would be provided and more staff appointed to handle the classroom training of students.

She said: "I am very keen for people to be given the chance to see if they can do the job before they get too far down the road."

Mrs Rumbold said that

The Government is clearly concerned that some teacher training institutions are still adhering to the theories of the 1960s.

Mrs Rumbold said she would consider arrangements for experienced teachers to enter colleges and lecturers to work in schools. "It would benefit both. If you stay doing the same thing for too long, your techniques can become quite good, but your ideas remain fixed."

"We do not do enough to encourage teachers to give us their ideas. We ought to do more to stimulate people to come up with new ideas," she said.

Accessories steal the show

GRAHAM WOOD



Richly embroidered accessories from the Lesage spring and summer collection being modelled by Janine Dickson at Liberty, central London, yesterday. The gold work handbag costs £1,790 and the cuff £20. Archive work from Lesage is also being exhibited.

Flat note as opera singers fall out

A discordant note struck when two opera singers decided to share a flat, beginning a long-running wrangle over its ownership that ended in the High Court yesterday.

Miss Gaynor Miles, a soprano, said the north London flat she bought six years ago entirely belonged to her and Miss Stacey Almond, her former flatmate, had no financial interest in it.

Miss Almond however said they had an oral agreement that she had a one-third interest in the two-bedroom flat in Cricklewood.

She said that in return for paying £250 towards the purchase price, helping with decorating, and paying about half the mortgage and outgoings, it was agreed Miss Almond should receive a one-third interest in the flat.

She said the friendship struck a low note, however, when Miss Miles made it difficult for her to practise singing by playing records loudly, until she finally left.

Dismissing her action, Mr Justice Morritt said that although Miss Almond had asked for a share in the flat, this had never been agreed.

Salary reviews

Performance-linked pay studied by CBI

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry and other employers' organizations are studying proposals which could end the annual pay round in favour of a scheme linking rewards to performance.

Percentage levels of performance schemes (Plops), which are gaining ground in spite of union objections, have been introduced in the motor industry, whose heavily unionized structure historically demands a single negotiated rate.

The most radical form of Plops is being operated by the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, which is encouraging "dead wood" staff to leave by awarding them no annual pay rises while high achievers receive salary increases of up to 20 per cent. Under the scheme, staff are rated annually between zero and 200 per cent for their attitude, performance and achievement.

Those achieving 100 per cent or more are guaranteed the average rise, which was 11 per cent last year, while those who score 85 per cent or less receive nothing and face disciplinary interviews.

Since the scheme was introduced in 1987, the turnover among the company's most highly-valued staff has fallen to only 3 per cent while half of the 150 or so who achieved poor ratings have left.

Mr Mike Nicholson, assistant general manager of personnel and training, said: "Unlike most companies who give everyone a basic pay rise and hold back some money to distribute in merit rises, we do not believe in paying people just for turning up for work."

In a different scheme, the 3,000 employees of Scottish Widows, the financial services company, stand to gain bonuses of up to 8 per cent this year as part of a drive to improve the quality of service.

Art vandalism trial

A man accused of slashing a painting worth an estimated £1 million at the National Gallery, London, was committed for trial at Southwark Crown Court by Bow Street magistrates yesterday.

Martin Paul Came, aged 27 and unemployed, of Copplestone Drive, Exeter, is charged with criminal damage to "La Madonna Del Gatto" on January 10. The work was painted by Italian master Federico Baroccio before 1577. An application for bail was refused.

Aids death toll Cash warning

Forty-eight Aids deaths were reported in Britain last month, the Department of Health said, taking the toll to the end of January to 1,660.

TB slaughter

A herd of 136 deer is being slaughtered on a farm near Dalbeattie, Dumfries and Galloway, because of tuberculosis. It is the first compulsory slaughter in Scotland.

Monks dug up

Workmen have unearthed the skeletons of eight 12th-century monks while digging in the garden of a house in Monks Road, Lincoln.

Rise in crime

Crime rose in Derbyshire by 13 per cent last year, according to the annual police report, with burglaries up 8 per cent.

Council role

The Nature Conservancy Council has made Dr Derek Langslow chief scientist to succeed Dr Peter Bridgewater. He is now director of policy, planning and services.

Each member of staff will receive the same percentage although individual assessments will enable some to earn an additional one per cent.

IBM, which employs more than 18,000 in Britain, has for years graded its employees on a scale of one to four. Their pay depends on how well they carry out annual performance objectives.

Performance or merit pay is also given to shop floor workers at Nissan's plant at Washington, Tyne and Wear, where only about a quarter of employees are unionized.

At Ford, unions negotiate the rate for the job for each grade. Within these bands, there are no pay differences.

At Kodak, salaries for nearly 1,600 senior staff were reviewed for the first time last year on an all-merit basis.

Performance-related pay has also been introduced for most administrative grades in Whitehall. From higher executive officer up to deputy secretary level, officials receive part of their pay as "merit money". Moves to reorganize Whitehall as "executive agencies" will further increase the numbers paid in this way.

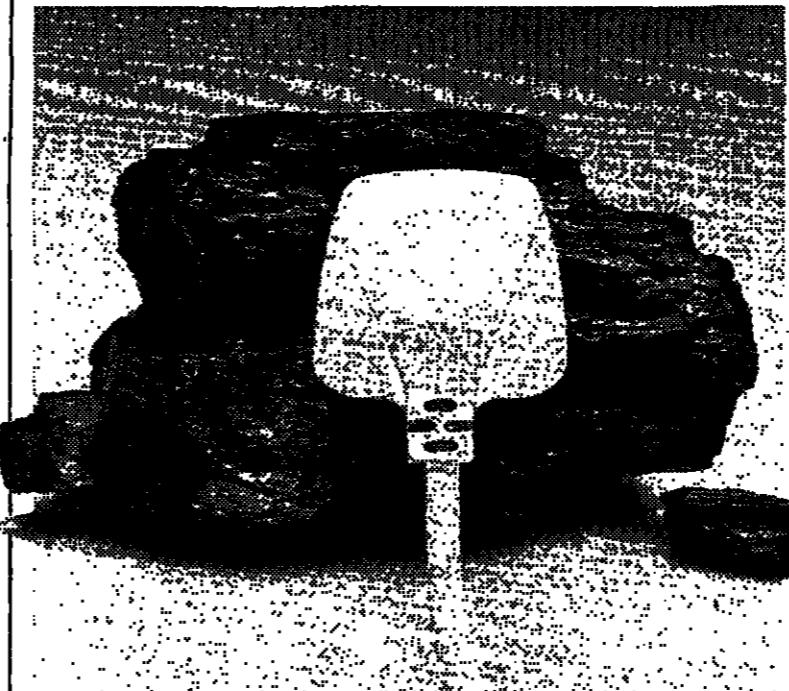
The CBI said yesterday it was obvious that Plops were becoming increasingly widespread. The organization is carrying out a survey into their role.

Most companies who operate the schemes believe they improve performance both of employees and the company.

The TUC said that while it fully supported increased performance, it believed there were "few jobs where it can be measured in a fair and objective way among individuals".

The TUC said Plops could also create divisions which would be counter-productive to the company's performance.

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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

East Berlin opposition finds short cut to unity

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Germany could be legally united immediately after the East German elections on March 18, say the opposition Social Democrats (SPD). They now believe the newly elected East German Volkskammer (parliament) will exercise its right under West Germany's Basic Law to accede to the Federal Republic by May at the latest.

As the Basic Law stands there would then be nothing to prevent the democratically elected members of the Volkskammer going to Bonn to join the Bundestag. Since polls suggest that the SPD in the East is likely to win 54 per cent of the vote against 11 per cent for the Christian Democrats (CDU) there, this would give the opposition in the Bundestag a healthy overall majority capable of voting Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, out of power.

This scenario is causing considerable concern, not only inside the CDU but among the allies, who have been relying on an international convention from 1954 to give them the final say for reunification.

Tomorrow Herr Kohl and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, fly to Moscow in an attempt to reassure President Gorbachev that the reunification of Germany does not threaten Soviet security. The visit is part of an undertaking to keep all four victorious Second World War powers closely informed of developments.

There is growing certainty that reunification in principle will be a quick process, with the necessary international negotiations being forced through at relative breakneck pace to keep up with developments.

Herr Herbert Helmrich, a lawyer and CDU member who heads the Bundestag's legal committee, has agreed that the SPD's interpretation of the Basic Law is correct, and warned that it makes accession likely much sooner than expected.

Herr Max Streibl, the Christian Social Union (CSU) Prime Minister of Bavaria, has also predicted that the Länder (states) will take this short cut to reunification.

The same point was made

Capital gains and losses

Bonn sees future of empty houses

From Ian Murray, Bonn

My landlord and the Federal Press Office have come to the same conclusion: Bonn's days as a German capital are probably numbered.

Twice in the past week ministers have made reassuring noises that the federal buildings are here to stay, but as reunification fever takes hold on the country, they are drowned out by excited cries on all sides of "Berlin, capital of a united Germany".

My landlord, three months after signing a three-year extendable lease, appeared at the door with an apology and a letter saying that he was selling up. "All you journalists and diplomats will be moving to

- In the 1980s the Government decided that reunification was a long way off

Berlin before long," he prophesied. "The bottom will drop out of the rent market and I am trying to get rid of this before it is too late."

The press and information office, whose 700 employees have been spread all round Bonn down the years, have at last been promised a new and spacious office near the Bundestag.

The plans so far have cost about £5 million but the price of the new block on the banks of the Rhine was put at £80 million in the last federal budget.

Now the scheme is on ice because "we don't know if we will stay here or move to Berlin". Although the Government has promised to complete its recent and massive building programme in Bonn, it is waiting to see what happens about a national capital before committing more taxpayers' money to am-

Kinnock advocates caution over troop reductions

From Anne McElvoy
West Berlin

The Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, said yesterday that Britain risked "being put on the sidelines in the development in Europe", and accused the Government of nostalgia for the uncertainties of the Cold War.

Mr Kinnock said in an interview in West Berlin that Mrs Thatcher was stalling on her response to German reunification. "The present policy of tip-toeing around the edge of this issue leaves us open to criticism for inaction. We are wasting what influence we could have in ensuring that the process is stable and beneficial to all."

There is confidence among the allies, however, that West Germany will honour its international commitments and make sure that the proper international agreements are reached before reunification.

The legal basis of the "short cut" to union is Article 23 of the Basic Law which lays down that its jurisdiction covers the original West German Länder and adds: "In other parts of Germany it shall be put into force on their accession." This in essence was the route followed by the Saarland after it voted to join the Federal Republic in 1955.

If the Volkskammer decides to reconstitute the five East German Länder — Thuringia, Saxony, Lower Saxony, Brandenburg and Mecklenburg — they could then exercise the right in the Basic Law to put it into force. No plebiscite would be needed.

The three Western allies' rights were last defined in the 1954 Paris Convention, signed with West Germany, which said they retained their powers and responsibilities relating to Berlin and to Germany as a whole, including the reunification of Germany and a peace settlement.

Another article of the convention says that the allies "will co-operate to achieve, by peaceful means, their common aim of a reunified Germany enjoying a liberal-democratic constitution like that of the Federal Republic".

The newspaper *Bild* says that Britain will be left as an outsider in the reunification issue. For weeks past, it says, Mrs Thatcher has been "grumbling along" against reunification, even though she had welcomed the fall of the Berlin Wall as "a great day for freedom". On the same day, however, the paper says that she said of reunification that it was "much too early" and that the task now was to build a real democracy and bring about economic reform.

The same point was made



Mr Kinnock with Mr Wim Kok, the Dutch Finance Minister, and Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, leader of West Germany's Socialists, in West Berlin yesterday prior to the European Socialist congress.

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The same point was made

The first piece of advice I gave him was about the opinion polls," Mr Kinnock said.

The first opinion poll in East Germany on Wednesday gave Herr Böhme's party 54

per cent of the vote. Mr Böhme commented that he was heading the warnings of the Labour leader.

The congress has served to boost the morale of Social Democrats in the two Germanies as the party prepares

All the files were held in quadruple and work is to begin today on destroying the computer discs on which they were filed.

A meeting of the Council of Ministers in East Berlin agreed with opposition demands to set up a government commission to hasten the disbanding of the Office of National Security. A spokesman for the commission said yesterday that six million files on East German citizens had been found in the headquarters of the former Office of National Security, meaning that the service had spied on one in every three East German citizens.

The files were held in quadruple and work is to begin today on destroying the computer discs on which they were filed.

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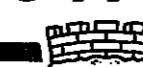
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Ortega heading for election victory as 'man of the people'

From Jasine Di Giovanni, Selva Negra, Nicaragua

El Comandante, as President Ortega of Nicaragua is called by his *compañeros*, is suffering from a sore throat, one of the penalties of being on the campaign trail.

He accepts a glass of bitter ginger root and says that he is confident the Sandinistas can uphold the campaign promise "*Todo sera mejor*" — everything will be better — should they be victorious.

The slogan, which is plastered on billboards, T-shirts, babies, walls and baseball hats, throughout Nicaragua, was initially sniggered at by members of the US-backed National Opposition Union as an admission of the difficult post-revolution years, but Señor Ortega sees it as a sign of renewed optimism.

"Once we have eliminated the war, we will be able to advance more rapidly economically," he said.

Despite an economy racked by five years of a US embargo and eight years of war, President Ortega still has a 2-1 edge in the run-up to the elections — less than three weeks away — over Señora Violeta Chamorro, his conservative opponent.

Having campaigned heavily, he believed he had managed to hold on to his decade-long leadership because of his "constant and direct contact with the people".

In an interview last week in a rustic mountain chalet high in the foggy mountains of Selva Negra in the Matagalpa region, the 44-year-old President said: "A lot of the reason for the success of this cam-

paign has been the type of communication that I have established with the populace.

"We have taken measures to help defend the economy and there have always been intense discussions with the people before and after any measures were taken."

He pauses briefly and fingers a set of glass worry beads. "I have never, in any way, attempted to give them a miracle solution."

It has not been the easiest of campaigns, despite President Ortega's new look which prompted one journalist to borrow President Bush's campaign slogan and refer to him as a "kinder, gentler Ortega".

Gone is the military uniform, worn constantly during his visit to Britain last May, and his omnious shaded glasses. In their place are cowboy boots, jeans and contact lenses, all of which give him a more relaxed air.

Instead of slinging a rifle, he poses with babies.

But the revolutionary rhetoric has not lost any of its familiarity. President Ortega has waged a continuous battle against US intervention in Central America.

"After the 1984 elections, the United States was still unsuccessful at isolating Nicaragua from the international community, and that obliged them to continue diplomatic relations with us," he said.

"If they had been able to isolate us, they probably would have, and said that the elections weren't legitimate, and that it was necessary to intervene for diplomatic pur-

poses. They tried to put conditions on us to see if they could actually break relations between us and other countries. But if they couldn't do it then, they can't do it now."

"These elections are setting a precedent. The UN, the OAS (Organization of American States) coming here — it's never happened to any other nation."

Señora Chamorro, currently immobilized after a knee operation, promises renewed relations with the US as well as the immediate abolition of the military draft.

They are pledges that might have appealed to many Nicaraguans, who are tired of the weakened economy and the hardship of war.

But, despite the fact that Doña Violeta, as she is called, is the widow of a much-loved man (Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, editor of the daily *La Prensa*, who was murdered by allies of General Anastasio Somoza in 1978) she is seen by many as a figurehead who does not have the political capacity to lead a country.

President Ortega, born in La Liberal, a small town in the Chontales region, was heavily influenced by both the Catholic Church and his parents, who each spent some time in jail under Somoza. "They were both Sandinistas, but they were also Catholics, and the Christian influence probably had the most weight in my mind," he said.

He adds: "I could be with the people for hours and hours, just listening to them. One learns, one really learns."

Increasingly likely event of a win by President Ortega's Sandinista Government in the February 25 elections.

Some 3,000 Contras are still operating inside Nicaragua, where they have been skirmishing with government forces. Witnesses blamed a Contra unit for an ambush that killed two nuns, one of them an American, on January 1. The Contras' permanent directorate, based in Miami, has disintegrated in recent months.

Under the Central American peace plan, the Contras, created by the Reagan Administration to wage war on the Sandinistas, were to be disbanded in return for fair elections.

As a result of the international scrutiny, the Nicaraguan campaign has been more closely monitored than any election in history. The United Nations and the Organization of American States are among those who have flooded the country with observer groups to see fair play.

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Contras force out leader

By Charles Bremer

Junior officers in the American-backed Contra army have ousted their hardline leader in an attempt to clear the decks before the elections in Nicaragua next month.

Reports from Honduras, where the 10,000-strong rebel force is based, said Colonel Enrique Bermudez, a former colonel in the National Guard of the late Anastasio Somoza, had been forced to step down by a group of subordinates headed by Senior Israel Galeano Cornejo, aged 29, the chief-of-staff, who uses the *nom de guerre* Comandante Franklin.

The move against the authoritarian commander came as Republicans in Washington signalled that the Bush Administration may fail to accept that the Nicaraguan election is as "seriously free and fair" as it has demanded.

The Contra officers, hardened in eight years of battle with Sandinista forces, are said by Contra sources to want to decide for themselves the fate of the rebel army in the

increasingly likely event of a win by President Ortega's Sandinista Government in the February 25 elections.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Pollution alert on BP oil spill

Anti-pollution experts from BP were yesterday helping to clean up a large oil slick threatening the Californian coast after an American oil tanker was holed (Michael McCarthy writes). More than 1,000 tonnes of oil spilled from the American Trader when a tank ruptured as it prepared to discharge oil at a pipeline terminal two miles off the Golden West refinery at Huntington, south of Los Angeles.

The oil formed a slick 400 yards wide and nearly two miles long, threatening beaches and wildlife. It was being contained last night in a big clean-up operation directed by the US Coast Guard. BP in London said yesterday that American Trading and Transport, the company owning the tanker, which was on charter to BP, had accepted responsibility, but the company's own US-based anti-pollution experts had flown to the scene.

Turkish pit disaster

Ankara — Sixty-three miners are feared to have died in Turkey after a pit shaft collapsed in a methane gas explosion near Merzifon, 218 miles north-east of here (Rasit Gurdick writes). Three bodies were recovered from the pit. One of those injured was said to be in critical condition. Despite a statement by Mr Mehmet Yazar, the government spokesman, that there was practically no hope left for those trapped as a fire raged in the shaft, the miners' families waited beside the pit. The heat and carbon monoxide prevented fire-fighters and rescue teams from entering the shaft. Mr Yazar said, adding that air vents were being closed to put out the fire. The disaster was the third biggest in Turkey in 30 years.

Bofors bank inquiry

Geneva — The Indian CID, investigating an £824 million order for 410 howitzers placed with the Swedish Bofors company in 1986, has initiated procedures for access to records of six numbered bank accounts in Geneva and Zurich, frozen last month by the Swiss authorities at the Indian Government's request (Alan McGregor writes). Charges of corruption have been brought in Delhi against several people, including a Swede. If the charges are accepted as punishable also under Swiss law, the banks will be required to provide the requested information.

Sweden bans strikes

Stockholm — The socialist Government here yesterday came into head-on confrontation with the trade unions by introducing Sweden's most draconian post-war deflationary package (Christopher Mosley writes). The package calls for a two-year freeze on wages, prices, rents and dividends, and bans strikes for a similar period. Mr Sune Nord, leader of a public sector union planning a stoppage by 100,000 workers next week, condemned the strike ban as "an extremely serious violation of fundamental trade union freedoms".

Falklands talks hope

Madrid (Reuter) — British and Argentine officials began two days of talks here yesterday on the Falkland Islands issue, hoping to clear the last obstacles to reconciliation after the 1982 war. Both sides said they hoped that the preparatory meeting would clear the way to the resumption of full diplomatic relations. Senior diplomats are set to take over the negotiations on February 14. Full restoration of ties has been blocked by Britain's insistence on keeping a 150-mile exclusion zone around the islands.

Strong arm of law quells cricket protest

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

Police baton charged about 100 blacks demonstrating against the Mike Gatting cricket tour outside the British Consulate in central Johannesburg yesterday.

The police went into action in a crowded pedestrian mall where the consulate is situated as the leaders of the protest were being admitted to their case.

The protesters claimed they had been driven away from the Wanderers cricket ground earlier, where the English team began a five-day "test match" against South Africa.

Meanwhile, the Rev Jesse Jackson, the American civil rights leader who arrived in South Africa on Wednesday, was making a triumphant tour of Soweto. At his first stop, a private educational centre, he told teachers not to talk down to their pupils.

"One of them could be a potential minister of justice," he said. "You people are teaching the architects and builders of a new South Africa." After that, Mr Jackson and his huge entourage were driven to a squalid settlement in Soweto's Dlamini district where he inspected shacks built of corrugated iron and cardboard sheets. He picked up a toddler dressed in a grubby T-shirt and shorts and holding his shoulder high, posed for photographs.

Earlier, the police had used teargas and batons against several thousand blacks gathering in Alexandra township on Johannesburg's northern border in preparation for a demonstration against the cricket tour.

On Wednesday, the Johannesburg chief magistrate refused permission for a legal demonstration.

A police spokesman said about 2,000 schoolchildren had been loaded on buses which were to take them to the cricket ground. He said: "The police confronted them and told them this activity was illegal. When they disembarked from the buses they started singing and dancing."

They ignored a warning to disperse and teargas was used, "whereafter the group dispersed peacefully," the police spokesman said.

The Alexandra township Civic Association condemned what it termed "the violent treatment used against people protesting peacefully".

Mr Moss Mashishi, organizer of the anti-tour National Sports Congress, said that 30 people had been admitted to a clinic after the police action.

Earlier, the Freedom in Sport organization, which supports the tour, had bussed in several hundred black spectators to the cricket ground.

Match report, page 40



Police stopping Peter Magabane, a *Time* magazine photographer, covering cricket tour protests in Alexandra yesterday.

Safety fears grow

ANC rebels a threat to Mandela

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

The South African Government has confirmed that right-wing extremists have threatened to kill Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress (ANC) leader, who is expected to be released this month.

Mr Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, said that various threats have been made against Mandela over the years by radicals on the right and by dissident factions of the ANC.

But the right had made more recent threats, "mainly centred around his release," Mr Vlok said. "They have been threatening to do certain things to him. We are concerned about his safety."

An authoritative source in the ruling National Party said the Government's ability to protect Mandela would be limited once he had rejoined his supporters.

He may be permitted to recruit armed bodyguards from within his own ranks, provided they acted discreetly, he said.

Sources close to the ANC said the task was likely to be

entrusted to members of the organization's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), who were not wanted in South Africa for specific acts of violence.

Mr Vlok rejected charges by the far-right Conservative

Washington (Reuter) — Pretoria may lift the 3½-year state of emergency in weeks, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister of Constitutional Planning, said yesterday. "I would say it is a question of weeks, a few weeks only," he told Nightline, the US television news programme, in Cape Town. The Government realized the state of emergency was "inhibiting the achievement of normalization".

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February 8 1990

PARLIAMENT

Peers defeat attempt to stop embryo research

Peers overwhelmingly rejected an attempt to stop research on human embryos when they voted by 234 to 80 against an amendment tabled by the Duke of Norfolk to the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill.

It was a free vote, the Government having promised that MPs and peers would decide the issue according to conscience. The Lord Chancellor emphasized the Government's neutrality when he wound up the debate.

The Duke of Norfolk (C) moved the amendment and said that he fully supported infertility treatments to enable married couples to have children.

In vitro fertilization was a wonderful discovery, enabling so many childless couples to have children, but also there was only about a 10 per cent success rate overall at present.

There had been a statement that there were more than 4,000 genetic diseases that might benefit if the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, set up under the Bill, were to license further embryo research, but no genetic disease had so far been identified, let alone cured, by embryo experimentation.

There was no question of using embryos to cure or treat genetic diseases.

"There is nothing you can learn from the human embryo that cannot be learnt from an animal embryo in the study of genetic diseases. Recently, immense strides have been made in the search for a cure of genetic defect and these are all dependent on research on born people who have those diseases."

He suffered from a partly hereditary disease, glaucoma in the right eye. "Strides are being made by research on those of us who have it."

It was nonsense to suggest that it would have been possible to cure that disease by experimenting with the eyes of a dot in a one-cell embryo in July 1913.

He was opposed to destructive experiments on human embryos. The Hippocratic oath provided that doctors should do

nothing that would hurt a patient, nor conduct experiments which hurt, with a view to finding a cure. He suggested that as legislators they had a conscientious duty to follow that oath.

"The embryo is the start of life and must be given the same status in life as a child or grown-up person or a member of this House. I see no distinction between that and the life of an embryo."

In vitro fertilization, two or three embryos were created and if any were created but not put in the womb, they should be allowed to die and not treated as an animal or some other being, and not licensed on. Keeping spaces for experimentation was ethically wrong.

Lord Rawlinson of Ewell (C) supported the amendment and said that people would not

they would not have had otherwise, while roundly condemning the research that had led to it.

Nobody claimed that all such defects could be avoided by such screening, but there were some cases where a defect might be identified before an embryo was implanted.

"While I understand the sincerely held objections of the opponents of research who believe that the embryo starts at conception, I find it difficult personally to see how anyone deeply concerned about the welfare of suffering humanity could fail to recognize the potential benefits of such research."

Lord Harvission (C) said that the House should be on its guard. Things were going on outside that peers should be warned of.

Lord Wailes of Detchett said that he and most scientists accepted the 14-day limit beyond which research on human conception would be illegal. The inestimable benefits to human life that would undoubtedly spring from research being performed or contemplated on the concepts within that limit could not and must not be frustrated.

One group had been distributing a leaflet outside, containing a statement from a mother who said that she had a mentally handicapped child who also had club foot, partial vision, epilepsy and other handicaps. The mother was quoted as saying: "I love her, but I could give anything for her to have enjoyed a full life rather than the limited life that she must lead".

These were worthy sentiments, but this document illustrates clearly the terrible way in which parents of handicapped children had been misled by the "experimentation lobby".

Peers must ask themselves how the mother could gain such a false impression about embryo biopsy. "We must be wary of the kind of campaign based as it is on such misinformation, misrepresentation and manipulation."

It had been said that embryo biopsy would allow genetic disease to be wiped out, but it had not yet succeeded on human beings and might never do so.

Lord Emals, Opposition spokesman on health, said that as a layman he found it hard to understand how warm-hearted, charitable, Christian people could say that this research was immoral, distasteful and wrong.

The Bishop of London, the Right Rev Graham Leonard, said that they were on a slippery slope and there was a danger that one day legislation would go beyond 14 days.

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HOUSE OF LORDS

The amendment moved by the Duke of Norfolk was to leave out the first of two options provided by the Government to fulfil a promise made in the 1987 White Paper. The first would provide for regulation of treatment, storage and research on human embryos; the second would permit only treatment and storage of embryos. Both Houses have been promised a free vote.

Tolerate a permissive right to kill or experiment with the life of a person and infant life was, to all, sacred.

To those who said that life commenced "after 14 days" he said: "Fourteen days after what?" What made 14 days acceptable? Was the logic not to start at the beginning? He could not accept that man had a right to dispose of what was living and to take it and place it on a shelf and finally to destroy it.

Only work on the human conceptus could properly yield the results on which so many infertile couples pinned their hopes.

"As a committed Christian myself, I believe the performance of such research within the 14-day limit and under the strictest control of a statutory

committee could be justified within the 14-day limit and under the strictest control of a statutory committee."

Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C) said that there was a widely shared concern on the Conservative benches. A proposal for a committee of privy counsellors to look at it appeared the most appropriate committee.

Would that co-operation include the granting of immunity from prosecution for those Crown servants and former Crown servants who might be called before it to give evidence?

Sir Geoffrey said that any request made by the committee would be considered in the ordinary way.

Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills, C) said that many Conservative MPs did not understand the Government's reluctance to have a wider inquiry.

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Mr Rupert Allsop (Torbay, C) said that last year the House had introduced a complaints procedure and a commissioner and tribunal for the security services.

The tribunal had declined to consider any complaint against the security services relating to events before December 18 last year. That was making a mockery of the Act passed last year.

Some MPs thought that it was a deliberate abuse.

Mr John Williamson (Ruislip, Northwood, C) said that it would not be acceptable if Mr King sought to prevent any Crown servant giving evidence to the select committee.

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SPECTRUM

Scouting around for girls

The walls of a male citadel once thought invulnerable are crumbling – the Scout Association has decided in principle to admit girls of all ages. But will the move cause more harm than good? William Greaves reports

When thousands of boys from all over Britain descended on Crystal Palace 80 years ago for the first national scout rally, they had already learnt to "be prepared" for every eventuality except the one which happened – an invasion of girls.

It was not, in truth, a major infiltration. But it did consist of eight defiant young females and their message was emphatic. They had learnt the scout uniform, they could wear the scout uniform, they intended to be scouts. It is reported that several of the boys whistled and that Robert Baden-Powell, considerably flustered, turned to his sister, Agnes, and said: "Do something about them, will you?" She did – and two months later the Girl Guides Association was officially formed.

As far as British youngsters under the age of 15 are concerned – girls over that age were admitted into the scout movement as Venture Scouts 14 years ago – that unbreachable barrier between the sexes was destined to remain intact through two world wars and eight decades of fast-changing social mores.

That wall did not exactly come tumbling down yesterday, but the Scout Association's announcement that the movement had decided in principle to admit girls at all ages at least revealed that a few bricks were beginning to wobble.

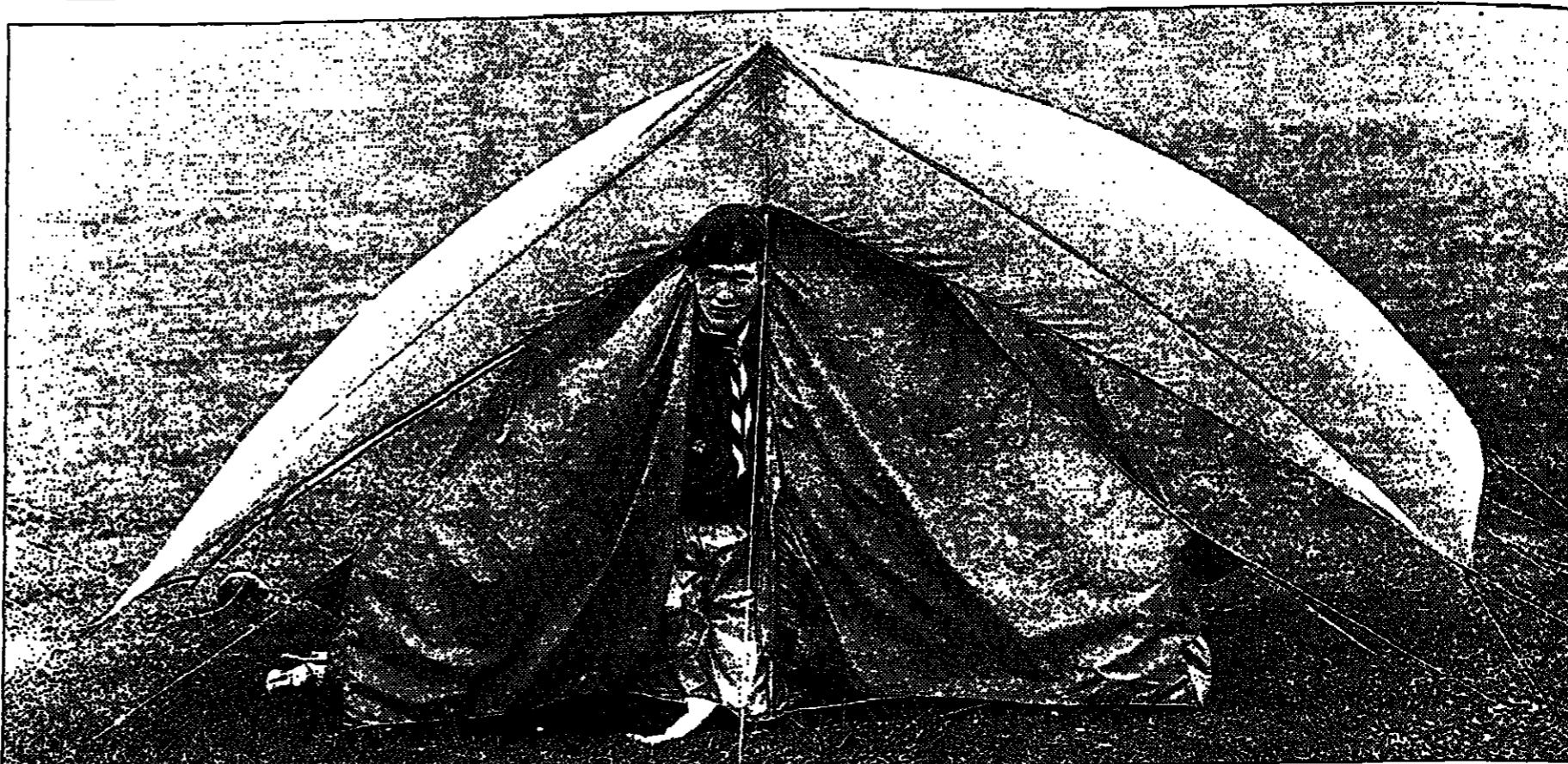
And one person still very much around to weigh the implications was 92-year-old Mrs Sybil Canadine, now an honorary associate of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and once one of that tiny army of rebels at Crystal Palace. Was she delighted or disturbed

by the prospect of a new wave of female pioneers breaking into one of the last all-male strongholds – and doing so, this time, by invitation? "We have always got to move with the times," she said yesterday. "But if this does happen, then the guides must respond by opening their ranks to all."

Cynics would say, however, that there are other question marks to be directed towards the descendants of the Baden-Powell revolution. Has, for instance, the whole concept of scouting and guiding been left behind in an age of computer technology? (A scout may still be trusted, courageous and have respect for himself and others, but he is no longer, according to the current Law, under obligation to be thrifty, clean in thought, word and deed – or to smile and whistle under all difficulties.)

Baden-Powell's biographer, Tim Jeal, acknowledges this crisis of image. "It is ironic," he says, "that a movement which began with an almost primitive vitality has become regarded in some circles as an example of middle-class fuddidom."

Contrary to popular belief, Jeal feels that BP himself would certainly not be turning in his grave at the prospect of a sexually united force. "Although he personally had difficulty communicating with women and preferred the company of boys and men, it had always been his intention that the scouts would be for boys and girls. It was only an Edwardian outcry against the coarsening effect that such a thing would have on gentle young ladies, and the number of editorials in important newspapers accusing him of trying to undermine the whole moral fibre



Bring on the girls? A modern scout (top), Lee Cammerer, in camp at Waterlooville, Hampshire, and Baden-Powell with some of his first recruits. Above, up-to-date badges awarded by today's organization

of the nation, which forced him to abandon the idea."

Numerically, at least, there is no evidence that scouting is on the decline. The scout movement has more than 600,000 young members between the ages of six and 20. And at the cub scout level (eight to 11), it attracts 25 per cent of the entire eligible population.

Nor can it be accused of failing to keep up with the times, with badges available for such specialist attainments as computer science, aeronautics and astronomy.

It is arguable, however, that the invitation to the other sex to "come and join us" should have come from the guides who, at 733,000 members, are the stronger of the two organizations and who attract an astonishing 41 per cent of all eight-year-old girls in the country, according to the chief commissioner, Dr June Paterson-Brown.

So why, if both organizations are able to prove their continuing relevance to society, should the Scout Association suddenly decide to alter the sexual status quo?

Derek Twine, the association's executive commissioner with special responsibility for training, and the member of the team which has been discussing the admission of girls for two years, insists that there is no wish to "poach" from the guides.

But was the real motive behind yesterday's dramatic volte-face, greeted with "surprise" and some ill-disguised annoyance by some Girl Guides Association, more of a public relations gambit to soften a reputation for chauvinistic attitudes? No, Twine says. "We are much more concerned with what's good for society and the country than we are with our own reputation."

IN AMERICA: SEGREGATION REMAINS THE NORM

The American scout movement remains segregated because Congressional charters require that each branch devotes itself to one sex, although one 360,000-strong division of the Boy Scouts of America – which has a total membership of 4.3 million – is coeducational.

The Girl Scouts of the USA, founded in 1912, is the largest voluntary organization for girls in the world, with 2.5 million members between the ages of five and 17. Although still best known for baking billions of biscuits each year, girl scouts heading off to their evening meetings these days are just as likely to find themselves studying martial arts or discussing child abuse.

The increasing influence of women in society has also forced changes in the Boy Scouts of America, the male half of the movement. Stung by a parent last year, the organization quietly dropped its ban on women scout masters. Previously, women were only to become "den mothers" for the younger Cub Scouts. But a divorced mother from Goleta, California, objected to the fact that the ban on female scout masters meant that her son could not go

camping, because his troop had no fathers or other adult males willing to take them.

The Boy Scouts now has about 500 women scout masters. In a gesture of equality, men were admitted as "den leaders". The Girl Scouts has always welcomed men as volunteers, and a growing number of troops are headed by male-female teams.

The Boy Scouts also allowed girls to join its career-oriented, high-adventure Explorer division, which caters to specialist interests. The division now includes boys and girls aged 14 to 20.

The boys' movement recently updated its handbook, first published in 1910. The new version, which went on sale last month, adds 23 pages of advice on drugs, child abuse and "environmentally gentle" camping to old favourites such as how to tell the difference between poison ivy and daffodils.

The revision has led some to speculate that the Boy Scouts of America may one day join its female counterpart. But that would require Congressional changes in both organizations' charters.

James Bone

IN EASTERN EUROPE: NEW LIFE AFTER 40 YEARS UNDERGROUND

In Eastern Europe and parts of the Soviet Union, scouting – traditionally open to both boys and girls – has sprung back to life after more than 40 years underground. Baden-Powell's movement had barely become established in the Soviet Union when, in the 1920s, it was declared illegal. In central Europe scouting was banned, first by the Nazis and then, after the Second World War, by the communists. Last year, however, with the obstacle of illegality removed, Hungary led the way in re-applying for recognition by the World Scouting Organization, closely followed by Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Daniel Kumerman, a former Charter 77 dissident who is spearheading the revival of scouting in Czechoslovakia, believes scouts in the East will have to adapt if the movement is to maintain its appeal in a world being rapidly westernized. "We're very good at tying knots and sending messages in Morse, but our thinking hasn't evolved."

East European scouting, having been preserved underground by devotees through two generations, may have the edge on its western counterpart in terms

of popularity. It does not have military image to shrug off and has always been closely tied to national sentiment. The first president of the Czechoslovak republic, Tomas Masaryk, was the Czech scouts' official patron until the war, and the movement acquired national martyrs when some of its leaders were purged in the Stalinist years of the early Fifeties.

In its underground days, certain troops were able to continue operating by concealing their activities behind the front of the state-controlled Pioneer organization. The Pioneer pledge "to create Socialist Man" and thus, by implication, to encourage atheism, was a cloak behind which traditional scouts' duties to God, country and individual conscience continued to be sworn, according to Kumerman.

As yet no steps have been taken towards establishing a nationwide movement in the Soviet Union which could be recognized by the WSO, although the state-controlled youth organization, Komsomol, no longer has a monopoly.

Lesley Chamberlain

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Going against the grain

The Prince of Wales launches a new controversy with his attack on organizations failing the rain forests

The speech by the Prince of Wales at storm-battered Kew this week about saving the tropical rain forests has unleashed another storm, which shows signs of blowing much longer than the tempests which have been snapping the boughs of Kew's venerable specimen trees.

His Rainforest Lecture on Tuesday claimed that international organizations charged with halting deforestation were failing in their task, and came close to calling for a consumer boycott of tropical hardwood products. It has brought applause from green quarters, and aroused cries of protest from the timber industry.

"I feel very aggressive about the Prince's incitement to the British public to stop buying timber," says Geoffrey Pleydell, speaking for the Timber Trade Federation of Great Britain. "With respect, he has misunderstood the extent of Britain's influence. A boycott by British buyers would make no difference to the world-wide market, and might jeopardize the influence we are able to exercise at present to promote good conservation practices."

But Nicholas Hildyard, joint editor of *Ecology Magazine*, says that calling for a boycott is "eminently sensible". He says that it is perfectly feasible to exploit forests on a sustainable basis, while at the same time ensuring they are not destroyed.

"But it is naive to talk about controlled, sustainable logging in countries run by corrupt regimes whose main interest is short-term profit. Until this situation changes, there needs to be a complete stop to logging in the primary forest, through international political action."

There is even dispute over whether the Prince was calling for a boycott at all. He accepted that it was possible to manage forests on a sustainable basis, for the benefit of their inhabitants and the world in general, and called for an international convention to define ground-rules for doing so.

"But we cannot simply go on talking," he added. How could consumers recognize products which had come from well-managed forests un-

teach about good husbandry in tropical contexts – cyclic felling, protection of water-sheds to prevent erosion, and so on."

Both sides agree that the problem of the rain forests is much more than a matter of forestry. There is the tragedy of indigenous forest peoples displaced by their destruction, and the almost irresistible political pressure of land-hungry farmers in countries with rising populations.

The Prince accused two international organizations, designed to control the destruction of the forests, of considering the question only in the context of timber production. He points out that one, the International Tropical Timber Organization, has articles of association which make no mention of the rights and needs of indigenous forest dwellers.

If there is a genuine forest community with genuine customary rights, it should be protected," Pleydell says. "Governments of developing countries need to recognize their interests. We in Britain may be able to offer aid, but we cannot tell them how to run their internal affairs."

The other organization criticized by the Prince is the UN-backed Tropical Forest Action Plan. "It is not true that the plan considers the problem only in the context of timber production," says David Cooper, information officer for the United Nations Association. "But it is true that its purpose is not so much to save the forests as to provide sustainable income for the countries concerned, as the best means of reducing pressure on the forests. We might agree with the Prince that it would be better if people were not moving in from other parts of Brazil, for instance, in search of land, but we are trying to manage a bad situation in terms of what is to be safeguarded."

"The definition of what is sustainable use can vary enormously," Pleydell says. "If the rules are laid down in a intrusive way, which the producers will not accept, you simply will not get their cooperation. If we stop buying their timber tomorrow, they will turn to the many other markets that exist, and ignore all that British forestry has to offer."

In the eternal argument between radical action and pragmatism, both the Prince and his critics claim to offer the right balance between idealism and practicality. The question is how much will be left of the rain forests when it becomes apparent which of them is right.

George Hill



The forest in danger: but has the Prince the right answers?

till a labelling scheme was in place to identify them, he asked.

The Government has backed such a scheme, and a study into ways of setting it up is due to report in September. Implementation is likely to be slow and complex, however.

"Failing such a scheme, a cautious consumer is almost certainly going to be more inclined to avoid tropical hardwoods altogether," the Prince said.

Whether this is seen as a hint to the consumer to leave that mahogany chest of drawers unbought, or only as a warning to the international promoters of the labelling scheme to get their act to-gether quickly, it points to a source of continuing controversy which any labelling scheme acceptable to the industry is almost certain to leave unresolved. For there is wide disagreement about what kinds of changes are needed if the future of the rain forests is to be safeguarded.

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George Hill

FRIDAY PAGE

'I don't see why we should stop athletes taking steroids'

I was the closing minutes of last week's *Any Questions*. A lady in the front row had the final question and, as I remember, it was to do with the "fairness" of banning an entire team of weightlifters from competition simply because two Welshmen had been caught out using anabolic steroids. On my right, I could hear the articulate voice of David Mellor deplored steroids and asserting that his department would be "listing" them. Ministers, I thought, are never more at peace than when announcing a new prohibition. Then I heard the crisp voice of my favourite presenter: "Barbara," said Jonathan Dimbleby, "what do you think?"

If I were in court, I would plead to being seized by an irresistible impulse. I was provoked, I would argue, by the cloying sentiments about me. "I don't see why," I began earnestly, "we should stop athletes from taking these steroids at all." When I woke up I was in Mr Mellor's car driving back to London. He was on the telephone to his wife. "She thought you were

good," he said in a kindly, ministerial manner, "until that last question."

John Goodbody, *The Times'* sports news correspondent, has written extensively and knowledgeably about anabolic steroids. *The Times* itself is in favour of making possession of them a criminal offence. As I understand it, there is a disagreement between the Civil Servants at the Home Office, who do not feel that anabolic steroids are a social problem requiring criminalization, and the Department of the Environment, where Sports Minister Colin Moynihan and his workers feel possession must be made a criminal offence.

At the moment, anabolic steroids are a controlled drug, like any other substance that is not available to the public except by a doctor's prescription. One fully approves of this. Steroids are available in some European countries over the counter, but this seems to me to lack common sense. Most users cannot make an informed judgement about the taking of numerous substances,

from penicillin to Valium, without medical advice, and it is needlessly harmful to make such medication available to illiterate users.

Steroids may be useful in treating some ailments, but they can be dangerous if wrongly administered. The biggest danger is to young people who, in an attempt to grow muscles like their favourite sports hero's, may take them before they have finished growing. This can do all sorts of harm including premature closing of the long bones. The minute you make a drug unavailable except by prescription, you have solved most of the problems. All you have to worry about are the illegitimate pushers.

Making possession of a drug a criminal offence is quite another matter. I am unclear about why we should do this, apart from fears in public hysteria. There has been talk of steroids causing psychotic behaviour and being responsible for acts of random violence. Indeed, the use of steroids is now surfacing as a defence in criminal assault cases. But there has been absolutely no scientific



BARBARA AMIEL

study of the relationship between steroids and psychotic behaviour. It is not good civics, one feels, to base public policy on an experimental hypothesis or on a few American television shows keen on hyping steroids as a new psychotropic substance.

Not being a medical person myself, I am in no position to

discuss the further question of whether steroids actually help sportsmen or simply give them a feeling of confidence, or whether use of them under medical supervision is harmful or not. Expert opinion on this is divided. I understand the Home Office advisory council on the matter cannot agree on this either. But once we have agreed that steroids should remain a prescription-only drug, we can turn to the separate questions of whether it should be used by athletes under medical supervision, and what the penalties should be if they break the rules and use it in events where it is outlawed.

As I understand it, the argument against using steroids is that (a) it is dangerous to the athletes, whose quest for the fastest time or highest jump will always lead them to overdose, irrespective of the harm; and (b) competitive games are there to challenge the natural abilities of our athletes, not to see how fast a drugged person can run. Neither of these arguments, it seems to me, holds up.

There is nothing safe about the whole punishing regime is clearly dangerous in itself.

If an athlete wishes to take an additional risk and knows the risk, I cannot see why he shouldn't be allowed to do so. It is a totally different matter if they break the rules in a sporting event they ought to pay the penalty. But if we wish to use the criminal law – in addition to the penalties imposed

by the sporting organizations themselves – I don't think the correct charge is possession of an illegal substance. Using the criminal code in this manner to punish an athlete is a wrong use of the law.

Since a great deal of money is involved in the endorsement of commercial products by winning athletes, I think there is a more logical remedy. If you take steroids, you put your competitors at a financial disadvantage because, by winning, you not only take away the glory, you also take away the money. In that case, I would find nothing wrong with charging the steroid-user with fraud for putting another athlete who was honest at financial risk.

In the meantime, I think it might be more realistic to have two sorts of competitions: we could have the steroid Olympics, and we could have those without. That might finally tell us whether all that muscle mass that accumulates on our steroid-popping weightlifters really does much more than make them look like some monstrous nightmare out of a fetishist's fantasy.

Houston police cheered when they heard their boss was a woman. Martin Fletcher investigates

Houston is a rough, tough city. Its police headquarters reflects that. An ugly, squat concrete building, it is divided by a tangle of freeways and flyovers from the clutch of soaring, mirrored skyscrapers that rise dramatically from a Texas plain to form the city's heart.

The police chief's office is at the rear of the third floor; plush, but windowless, reached through a bare grey corridor. A Stars and Stripes and the Lone Star flag of Texas provide a suitably grand backdrop.

Last week, the new incumbent sat in a large swivel chair at a huge expanse of desk. She was wearing a bright red jacket and skirt and was surrounded by flowers from well-wishers. "I was stunned," said Mrs Elizabeth Watson of her appointment. So was the rest of the nation.

A month after women soldiers in Panama fought in battle for the first time, another batch of male exclusivity had suddenly, and unexpectedly, fallen. For the first time a woman had been chosen to lead the police force of a large American city, the fourth biggest in the country.

When news of Watson's appointment broke, the city's car radios crackled with excitement. "Betty, if you're out there – congratulations!" one excited officer whooped into his transmitter. "Thank God. A real police officer," exclaimed another.

The delight was felt throughout America. "This is like the first woman in Congress or the first woman in the state legislature," said Dr Susan Martin, an expert on women and policing. "Police work is typically one of the most male-dominated professions. For a woman to achieve the position of chief in one of the largest departments



Helping police with inquiries: Elizabeth Watson ran into male resistance early in her career, now they are thankful for a "real officer"

The toughest cop in the Lone Star state

in the country is a major event."

But probably no one felt more pleasure than a certain traffic cop, Sergeant Robert Watson. "His colleagues call him Mr Chief," said his wife and boss. Her husband insisted she took the job, which is worth £51,000 a year. "He's very much secure in who he is and what he does and the teasing doesn't bother him. He's well liked and has been very supportive of me throughout my career."

Watson is aged 40 – one of America's youngest police chiefs – and has children aged nine and four. She is tall, trim and fresh-faced with short black hair, and self-deprecating humour. She has not yet acquired her police chief's

uniform, she explains. No one had thought to design one for her, so she did it herself.

They affectionately call her "By-the-book Betty" in Houston because of her attention to detail. In a profession dominated by men – fewer than 10 per cent of the force are female – she has risen fast. Born to a family of Philadelphia policemen, she joined the Houston force as a graduate in 1972 and discovered that women were barred from all uniformed assignments. She became a member of the juvenile division where, to add insult to injury, she had to advise male officers by radio on how to handle incidents involving juveniles.

She moved on to the jail division where, despite her policy of not dating fellow officers, she met her husband. "It happened by accident. He was a co-worker and we used to have breakfast. There was never the notion that he was formally asking me out," she says, to test for herself the deeply entrenched view that unless you had driven the streets you were no genuine cop.

She encountered "real animosity" from the male officers. "There had never been a female lieutenant on patrol and it was very unpopular." But after six months she was promoted again.

She has never been shot at or assaulted, but neither are most officers. She remembers being allowed to go to arrest one suspected thief at a petrol station because the warrant said his right leg was amputated. To her alarm, she found he had lost merely a foot, but still managed to talk him into going quietly.

There were three more senior male contenders for the

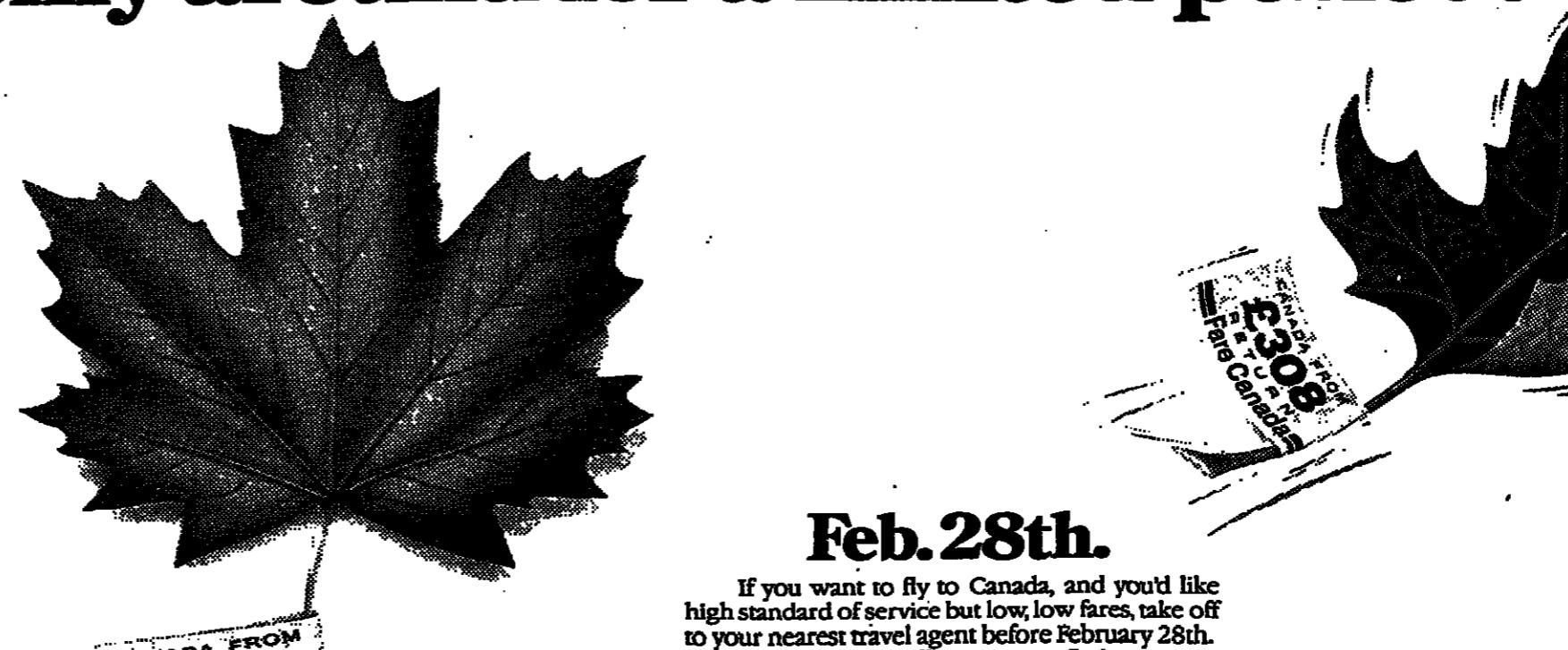
Ashkenazy the informer



Vladimir Ashkenazy, the Soviet pianist and conductor, reveals in *The Times* tomorrow how he became a reluctant informer for the KGB. Talking to Ray Connolly about his childhood and growing up, he says: "They came to me and said they'd appreciate it if I'd tell them what the foreign students did, what their interests were and what vices they had. I was frightened; I thought 'Oh my God, what will happen to me if I don't help them?'"

Ashkenazy also recalls the day Stalin died. "The loudspeakers were all playing funeral music and saying how

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ECOSPHERE



News on environmental issues

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Plastic power

Procter & Gamble is testing marketing a product in Canada and on the Continent which saves the consumer money and reduces landfill waste. Enviro-Paks are a pouch packaging system which uses from 70 to 85 per cent less plastic than rigid bottles of liquid detergent, dishwashing liquid or fabric softener. After the first purchase of the bottle, consumers can refill it from light, squishy plastic pouches. Since they use less plastic, the consumer saves 15 per cent on the regular retail price, and in Canada it is estimated that the use of refills will reduce the number of plastic bottles thrown away each year by five million.

Storm damage

In the wake of appalling woodland devastation, the National Trust has launched its Trees and Gardens Appeal, established in the aftermath of the 1987 hurricane. Angus Stirling, the trust's director general, says: "We have not lost as many trees as last time, but the damage is more serious – particularly to the NT gardens in the West Country. Many NT gardens are defenceless against future weather horrors after losing valuable woodland windbreaks. Donations or requests for covenant forms can be addressed to National Trust Trees and Gardens Appeal 1990, Freepost, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6BR.

Josephine Fairley

TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

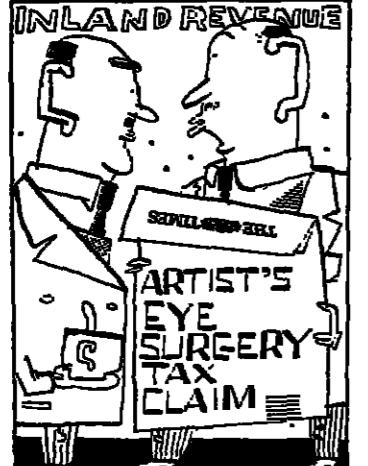
Two-and-a-half years after the Commons decided MP's could claim salaries for their secretaries and research assistants out of public funds only if they lodged contracts of employment with the Westminster authorities, 333 – fewer than half the members – employing 523 staff, have complied. The Westminster branch of the GFWU, the union to which many Commons secretaries belong, says that Labour MP's are just as bad as their Conservative counterparts. Although, theoretically, salaries should not be paid on behalf of members until they comply, the Westminster fees office tells me that no one's cash has yet been cut off, and they are continuing to "pursue vigorously" MP's who have failed to provide the contracts.

Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, got very annoyed at the press gallery luncheon this week with journalists who fail to report what Mrs Thatcher says, preferring to interpret what they think she meant. To ingratiate myself, I therefore propose to go one better and report not only the Prime Minister's exact words but the way she says them. Take for example, Nelson Manzayi. As Ingham also castigated districts for never checking facts, I rang the African National Congress for the approved pronunciation. Mrs Thatcher has got it wrong, a man told me. The black community rhymes the name with "cellar". The BBC had checked and got it right. He couldn't understand why Downing Street had not bothered.

My thanks to *Green Magazine* for this. On December 29 last year, Tony Baldry, the Tory MP for Banbury, wrote to a constituent who had asked about potential hazards from the atomic energy station at Harwell: "I don't think that I have the background on which I could sensibly comment on any of your observations or findings". Five days later Baldry was appointed by the Prime Minister as Under-Secretary of State for Energy with special responsibility for coal, electricity – and, yes, nuclear power.

The announcement by the Transport Secretary, Cecil Parkinson, on Wednesday that the rail line to Lichfield is finally to be electrified obviously has nothing to do with the impending Staffordshire Mid by-election, or the fact that its electors will benefit. But that has not prevented Graham Allen, the Labour member for Nottingham North, expressing the mischievous hope that a Tory MP in Nottinghamshire will resign so that the line from Nottingham to St Pancras can be electrified, too...

BARRY FANTONI



'At least rock musicians will never get away with chains for their ears'

Spare a thought for members of the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs. As part of their investigation into policing in the EC, they were to visit Rome in June – and several hoped that between their diligent inquiries they might find a little time to see the odd World Cup football match or three. Alas, the visit has had to be postponed, for none of the senior police officers they hoped to meet will be available. They will all be too busy policing the World Cup.

Labour's left-wing veteran, Eric Heffer, retiring from his Liverpool Walton constituency at the next election, has beenemoaned to national party officials that Peter Kilfoyle, the party's full-time organizer in the North-west, is after his seat. Heffer, who says in the current issue of *Labour Briefing* that events in Eastern Europe have finally proved Trotsky right, is understood to be less than delighted about the prospect of being succeeded by a man known on Merseyside as the "scourge of Militant". But if Kilfoyle is successful, Heffer will only have himself to blame. Until 1982 Labour did not allow its full-time officials to seek parliamentary selection. The prime mover in persuading the national executive to liberalize the ruling was, you've guessed, Eric Heffer. Ah, but he tells me he only ever intended the dispensation to apply to press officers and researchers, never to organizing staff.

It may be counted a major stroke of good fortune that, on Wednesday, the Princess of Wales poked her hand through the right hole: "DI GRABS JEW'S EAR!" is not a headline anyone would care to see exciting the world's wire services.

In the event, what the radiant fingers groped for, clasped, and indeed correctly identified unseen, was an elephant's molar. I know this, because an hour later I did two-thirds of that myself. I fell only at the final hurdle, but I can live with it; I tell myself that HRH must have felt many an elephant's tooth in her time, all those tropical tours, all those inaugural bums popped in when opening this or that zoological garden, all those chums, doubtless, with backyard enclosures of their own, the soft Hampshire evenings echoing to the trumpling of pachyderm and scion alike as the tuxedoed guests strolled

When President Gorbachov and Chancellor Kohl meet in Moscow tomorrow, the key question on their agenda will be: "Can a united Germany belong to Nato?" The comments of Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, on Wednesday suggest that Moscow may be prepared to accept just that. If it does, there are some signs that Gorbachov may be about to get into deeper trouble than any he has yet encountered.

Gorbachov prevailed this week over his rivals in the Communist Party leadership, but his victory may contain the seeds of his downfall. The end of the party's "leading role" is speeding the day when the office of General Secretary – the autocratic office through which Gorbachov effected such momentous transformations – will have become politically irrelevant. Gorbachov will have abandoned his institutional and ideological throne and will be answerable to the Russian people; to them only because the Russians will be the only people in what once was the Soviet Union, who will even be interested in his answers. And the Russian people are unlikely to be fond of a man whose *perestroika* failed, and who entertains German leaders in Moscow to help

Unless Gorbachov handles the

them recreate a united Germany. It is significant that Gorbachov's enemy, Yegor Ligachov, has fastened on German unity as a major issue in the Soviet Union's internal political conflict. At this week's plenum of the Central Committee, Ligachov, in a speech that was loudly applauded, made a strong attack on Gorbachov's approach to German unity. I have seen only one brief reference in the British media to this part of Ligachov's speech, but there was a good account of it in Wednesday's *Irish Times*, from its Moscow correspondent, Conor O'Clery.

Ligachov is reported as having "warned against German unity, which Mr Gorbachov has conceded is inevitable, saying it would involve the engulfing of East by West Germany". He said it would be "unpardonable shortsightedness" to fail to see that a Germany with huge economic and military potential loomed on the horizon, and urged that "a new Munich" must be prevented.

Gorbachov handles the

issue of German unification, from tomorrow, more carefully than he did in his meeting with Modrow, the "new Munich" charge could be exceedingly dangerous to him. This is an issue on which all his enemies, of "left" and "right", could combine to destroy him. It gives Ligachov an opportunity to win widespread popularity. It is an issue – perhaps the only burning issue at this time – about which communists and non-communist Russians feel the same way.

To convince Russians that he is not really the man of "new Munich", Gorbachov will have to sound significantly tougher on German unity than he did in his talk with Modrow. In that talk it was Modrow, not Gorbachov, who was insistent about "neutrality". Poor Modrow, however, will not be in a position to insist on anything for much longer: the East German elections next month seem bound to replace him. If a united Germany is to be kept out of Nato, it is Gorbachov who must do it.

Gorbachov will have an

opportunity tomorrow to make explicit on what conditions, if any, and on what time-scale, he is agreeing to German unity. It seems that his advisers are divided on this matter. Shevardnadze on Wednesday sounded like a dove. But another of Gorbachov's advisers, Nikolai Portnov, said in an interview with *Stern* magazine this week that the idea of a united Germany as a member of Nato "was a joke and that it could not happen".

It is doubtful whether a veto on Nato membership for a united Germany will make German unity significantly more acceptable to Russians. However that may be, it looks as if "the Nato veto" is the minimum that Gorbachov must offer the Russian people if he is to have any chance of getting away with his acceptance of German unity.

There is also a question of time. The Germans are in a tremendous hurry. Gorbachov, in his talk with Modrow, was all for due deliberation. It will be of very little help to Kohl, in the

here and now, if Gorbachov gives his blessing in principle to the attainment of German unity in, say, three years from now. In three years, Gorbachov is not likely to be there, and his successor may well have very different ideas. So it looks as if neither side may gain as substantial results as it hopes for from tomorrow's meeting.

I find it hard to believe in the idea of a united Germany as a dutiful partner in Nato. It is an idea that is not in line with the *Zeitgeist* of the last decade of the 20th century, which is increasingly nationalist. Russian nationalism and German nationalism – both rising forces – are instinctively opposed to the idea. Russian nationalists are opposed to any kind of German unity. German nationalists, passionately in favour, would feel unity to be sullied by incorporation in an international entity, dominated by countries which

are their soil.

But how many German nationalists are there? Very few, several commentators suggest: all that belongs to the past. I disagree. I believe that, if the SPD plays the "out-of-Nato" card, there are enough German nationalists around to make Oskar Lafontaine – or whoever the Social Democrat candidate may be – next president of the Bundesrepublik, in place of the "internationalist" Helmut Kohl.

to his invitation to join us. (Mind you, once, on the stroke of the mid-night that ushered in a New Year, I kissed Ingrid Bergman.)

I suppose that *La Régie du Jeu*, if there is to be a choice of one masterpiece among many, is the greatest of all those creations. My own personal love, though (and I think it is most people's), is *Les Enfants du Paradis*, for the richness of the unfolding story, the artistry with which all the plots and sub-plots are woven, the perfect casting, above all the passion and love and heart with which it is filled. If the pre-war films announced the end of the world, Camé's war-end epic says "I told you so".

A crazy attempt to film an English farce, *The Lunatic at Large*, which ended up as *Drôle de Drame*, is the only one of my list that was pure comedy, though *A Nous la Liberté* (my own runner-up) is very funny. *La Grande Illusion*, Renoir's great shout of pity for mankind's delight in war (the shout was soon stifled in his throat – the film came out in 1937) manages to avoid the obviousness and didacticism which have sunk many such attempts to indict war; the Pagnol trilogy will survive for ever not because of the love story but for the antics of the Marseillais who frequent Raimu's bar, *Le Jour le Lève* (Gabin at his best) is the one which has the most intense form of the twilight I have described. Ah, the alarm clock in the final seconds! (I am not spoiling it for you long before you get to the end you will have been so gripped by the story that you will have forgotten all about alarm clocks. I invariably have).

I am sorry I didn't see *The Baker's Wife*, and I wish Trevor a huge success in whatever he does next; it's the least I can do in return for the memories he has awakened in me today. Incidentally, who played the dwarf in *La Kermesse Héroïque*? And was he a dwarf?

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Conor Cruise O'Brien on a decision that could unseat the Soviet leader

Russia's German dilemma

Na, are attracted to the ideas of not belonging to it any longer. And it seems that the West German Social Democrats are seriously thinking of taking up that as a plank in their election platform. At an international security conference in Switzerland last weekend, the SPD delegates started American participants – according to an American report – by affirming "that Nato had no role to play in a future Europe and a single

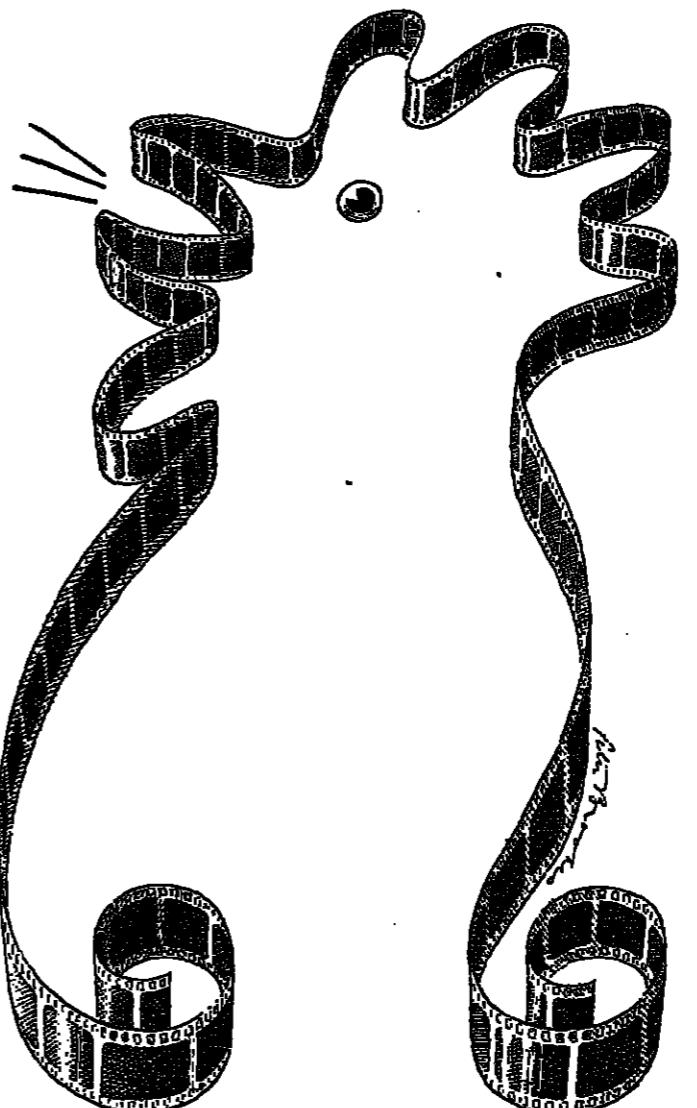
Germany". If the general hypothesis I have been putting forward on this page – that German nationalism is once more a major force – is correct, then the SPD is on to a winner. German nationalists, of their nature, dislike playing second fiddle in an international alliance dominated by the Americans, and also dislike the presence of any foreign troops, even allies, on their soil.

But how many German

nationalists are there? Very few, several commentators suggest: all that belongs to the past. I disagree. I believe that, if the SPD plays the "out-of-Nato" card, there are enough German nationalists around to make Oskar Lafontaine – or whoever the Social Democrat candidate may be – next president of the Bundesrepublik, in place of the "internationalist" Helmut Kohl.

Bernard Levin on the miracle of an art that reached its greatest flowering during a world war

Le cinéma du paradis



I am sorry that *The Baker's Wife*, a musical directed by Trevor Nunn, has folded after a brief run at the Phoenix Theatre. I didn't get to see it, so I am in no position to say whether *vox populi* judged it correctly or not. But I must confess that when I say I didn't get to see it, it would be more accurate to say that I was reluctant to do so.

My lack of enthusiasm for a visit had nothing to do with the director, whom I hold in the very highest esteem, nor with the cast, and of the music and lyrics I naturally knew nothing. My problem was nostalgia, for I remember, and remember well, the film on which the show was based: Marcel Pagnol's *La Femme du Boulanger*. If you have handkerchiefs, prepare to wet them now.

Has there ever been a cinematic Golden Age to touch the years in France between, roughly 1930 and 1945? I am no cinema buff, but I should be very surprised to hear that a dozen years. The directors: René Clair, Julien Duvivier, Marcel Pagnol, Jean Renoir, Jacques Feyder, Marcel Carné. The players: Arletty, Raimu, Pierre Fresnay, Michèle Morgan, Fernandel, Louis Jouvet, Françoise Rosay, Jean Gabin, Michel Simon, Pierre Brasseur, Jean-Louis Barrault. The films: *Un Carnet de Bal*, *Hôtel du Nord*, *Drôle de Drama*, *Pepl le Moko*, *Quai des Brumes*, *Le Jour se Lève*.

me that at a weekday matinée just before it closed there were only 60 people in the house. Imagine that vast shell holding only that tiny handful of grains of sand!

Of all that wonderful galaxy, Arletty was the greatest star of all. Her beauty – not just of face and form, but voice as well – was like something out of a great Renaissance painting, instead of the manufactured,

being mocked), but there was a remarkable prescience in much of their finest work. You cannot fail to hear the note of something coming to an end; in film after film, the fragility of the world around the makers is at the heart of the work, and the shadows are closing in. I do not believe it is a coincidence that so many of the love films end in tragedy, or at the least in loss.

It is as though they knew that the world was done for; the elegant, autumnal melancholy that pervades many of these masterpieces says so clearly. If so, there was another irony to come: many of the actors and film-makers got out of France before the fall (of these, most went to Hollywood, but few prospered there); but some stayed, and went on making films throughout the Occupation. Carné was finishing *Les Enfants du Paradis* even as the liberating armies rolled on towards Paris. I have heard said that half the Resistance were in the crowd scenes, impenetrably disguised as the poor of 1830 and ready to drop everything and fight as soon as the word came.

It came, but nothing since those years could match what had gone before. I saw a few films of the post-war French *nouvelle vague*, wretched, thin and lazy I thought them, and saw no more. And why should I, when I had such memories? There was a dire stage musical called *Fanny*, based on the Pagnol Marseilles trilogy, which I went to much later; it was at Drury Lane, and a stupendous flop. (One of the actors in it told

empty artefacts of the Hollywood make-up rooms. I was dining once with Alan Moorehead; alone at a table on the other side of the restaurant there sat a beauty, no longer young. Alan said nothing, but went over and embraced her; the unheard dialogue ended in her shaking her head, gently, gracefully. Alan came back and said it was Arletty, whom he knew well, and the shake of the head was her reply

It might have been possible, had he also had a vision of how to proceed. There might have been a chance of an orderly progress to multi-party systems and democracy throughout Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union, had he established law and order first, as urged by Vladimir Brovnikov, the Soviet ambassador to Poland.

A sensible and adroit politician would have prepared the ground before sowing the volatile and irrepressible seeds of democracy. He would have sought allies, set clear objectives, followed a strategy. He had the political and military power to do all this. He could have enforced gradual reforms that would have stuck.

No wonder. Not only is there no food in shops, there is great uncertainty. Gorbachov governs on impulse. And, being a leader dictated to by impulse, he has allowed the mob to determine the political agenda. Almost everywhere in Eastern Europe the politics of the mob have replaced those of argument and persuasion.

It will get worse. Gorbachov might, as he said at the Central Committee meeting this week, have a vision of government by "humane, democratic socialism", but almost all his recent actions have worked against its implementation.

Why history will say Gorbachov was a fool

Robert Kilroy-Silk cannot admire a man who has unleashed the dogs of war

Mikhail Gorbachov has a lot to answer for. He may be the darling of the West, hailed as a great statesman, liberator of subject peoples, the man who kicked Eastern Europe on to the road to democracy, but that is not how he will be seen by history.

History is a more discerning and exacting taskmaster. It judges by results, rather than promises and slogans. It is not beguiled by an easily assumed style or a carefully cultured image. It does not look at Gorbachov through the eyes of an easily seduced Westerner but stares with the cold, clear vision of a hungry Ukrainian miner.

It will pronounce Gorbachov to have been a decent but also a weak man, a misguided fool, an incompetent politician, a dreamer of impossible dreams. We can only hope that it will not go on to conclude that he was also responsible for more misery, desolation, destruction and death than Stalin and Hitler.

It is a real possibility. Anything is now possible in Eastern Europe. Any fool could have foreseen that the consequences of the almost overnight removal of repressive regimes would mean serious disorder verging on anarchy and chaos. It would be surprising were it not so. Take the screwed-down top off a fizzy bottle and it explodes, over everyone.

The moment Gorbachov cavaliere announced that the East European countries could do their own thing, determine their own future, that the Soviet Union would not intervene, that the local Communist Party leaders would be left isolated and unprotected, then the only possible immediate outcome was major disorder.

You cannot, by force of Russian tanks, keep in order deeply unpopular communist governments in Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary for nearly half a century, and not expect an explosion when they are precipitately withdrawn.

Gorbachov had his reasons, of course, but they were not ones of great principle. He has not, overnight, become an Aristotelean, or even a convert to John Stuart Mill. He is still a good communist. It was the serious and developing economic problems of the Soviet Union, after 70 years of communism and five of *perestroika*, that forced his hand.

And the domestic economic difficulties are so profound and seemingly intractable that he has become careless of the consequences of some of his statements and actions. Either that, or he is naive and insensitive to a degree that it is impossible to believe.

What we do know is that he has abdicated from his wider responsibilities. He could not deal with the problems of the Soviet Union and its empire, so he threw in the towel, walked away, and in a spectacular fashion. Not even Pontius Pilate

washed his hands of his political

problems and leadership obligations so dramatically. And, unlike Gorbachov, he was not hailed as a statesman for dodging his duties.

There is hardly a part of the former Soviet empire that is not in some kind of turmoil. East Germany has been deserted by its people and wobbles on the edge of bankruptcy and civil war. Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, all slightly more cohesive, with vestiges of democratic tradition, nevertheless face enormous economic and political problems they may never overcome.

Poor Romania teeters on the precipice of a long, bloody civil war that will probably, almost certainly, culminate in the installation of a dictatorship – of the right or the left, it matters little – which may make the Ceausescu era look like a garden party.

Even the Soviet Union itself is beginning to break up. The Baltic republics cock a snook at Moscow, the southern republics cannot become independent fast enough, and the Ukrainians are not alone in cautiously testing the strength of the Kremlin. Gorbachov may be fated in the West, but few of his subjects wish to remain under his leadership.

No wonder. Not only is there no food in shops, there is great uncertainty. Gorbachov governs on impulse. And, being a leader dictated to by impulse, he has allowed the mob to determine the political agenda. Almost everywhere in Eastern Europe the politics of the mob have replaced those of argument and persuasion.

Instead, Gorbachov has let loose the dogs of war, as we shall see in the next few months and years in Eastern Europe. We shall all be involved. We shall not then vote him the most popular leader in Europe. He will be the man who put us all, unnecessarily, in great jeopardy.

"Did you know," said Brendan, "who had come out of the scorpion, "that half of all the species in the world are beetles?"



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

THE GENSCHER OPTION

As the fusion of the two Germanies accelerates, so the language of statesmen alters as they try to keep pace with new realities. There is much talk now of "transition".

The word means different things to different people. The differences depend on whether the speaker gives the highest priority to international arrangements which accompany reunification or to reunification itself. To the Foreign Secretary in Bonn this week, it should be a "reasonable" period for necessary adjustments to be made. Yesterday the Prime Minister did not measure a reasonable period in time, but did not disclaim her earlier suggestions that it should be measured in years. To others, and particularly to German politicians, transitional arrangements should be used while more permanent ways of ensuring stability in Europe are worked out.

Military alignments and alliances are the key transitional arrangement. While the heading rush of events and elections may dissolve the civilian border between East and West Germany, that line also divides two armed alliances. A moment is rapidly approaching when the desire in East Germany for reunification will collide with the 380,000 Soviet soldiers who live there. The key problem for Western policymakers is to avoid that collision while managing a Soviet withdrawal from East Germany.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher has made a constructive opening bid. He has suggested that, as an interim arrangement, the present territory of East Germany should be demilitarized. A reunified Germany would remain a member of Nato. Not the least of this proposal's merits is that it has been sufficiently well-judged to engage the serious interest of both the US Secretary of State and his Soviet counterpart.

The idea has not been explored in great detail and it has drawbacks. In the current climate, the idea of leaving Nato forces in West Germany might be politically unpopular and

difficult to sustain. It requires a Soviet leadership ready to face down accusations from its internal opposition that it has "surrendered" to the West without good cause. The merit of such arrangements lies less in the quality of the concept than in the detail of enforceability and verification; we have no idea whether the various parties think they can agree on the fine print.

Herr Genscher's plan has two strengths. It is a strong position from which Nato can bargain with the Soviet Union, which is unlikely to accept such an idea immediately. There will probably be an attempt to negotiate parallel reductions in Warsaw Pact and Nato forces on either side of the inner German border. There may be an attempt to negotiate a reduction in the Soviet troop presence which falls short of complete invisibility. But time, the flow of people out of East Germany and the date of the elections there are not on the Soviet side.

The second advantage lies in the thinking which transitional arrangements must stimulate in Nato. Whatever its geographical deployment, the kind of defence which Nato provides will change. At the moment, its forces on the central front are geared to resisting a theoretical attack which could be mounted by tanks stationed only a few miles away. Shrinking Soviet forces in East Germany mean that the type of defence needed will change.

With the possibility of a demilitarized East Germany under serious discussion in Moscow, Washington and Bonn, there is no reason for defence ministries and Nato's thinkers to remain silent on the ways in which they might react to this change. The idea, already put round, that strategic thinking in Western capitals has been deep frozen by the Cold War has incalculable political consequences — not least in West Germany. Advocates of neutrality for a reunified Germany are to be heard and they would gain strength from being able to represent Nato as a dinosaur incapable of adapting.

POLAND'S 'BIG BANG'

The Polish Prime Minister, Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, arrives in London on Monday, just before the Paris Club meets to discuss ways of lightening Poland's \$30 billion burden of debt to foreign governments, to seek Mrs Thatcher's support for Poland's "big bang" transition to the free market. He deserves the most sympathetic of hearings.

The strategy of economic and social restructuring launched on January 1 has no precedent for speed or boldness, even outside the communist world. The goal Poland's remarkable Finance Minister, Mr Leszek Balcerowicz, has set himself is to dismantle the command economy within months, seizing the moment of greatest popular commitment to the new Government to inflict the worst pain.

To create the basis of sound money and low inflation without which his planned wholesale privatization of enterprises and distribution systems cannot proceed, he has imposed a shock therapy of "corrective inflation", under which prices are intended first to soar and then, as they reach the demand barrier in a free market, to steady.

Last month, in a completely successful operation, the Polish zloty was made convertible with the dollar overnight. Subsidies on food, energy and raw materials — which last year accounted for nearly a third of state spending — were slashed or abolished, tight fiscal and monetary policies were introduced and wages were pegged at well below the rate of inflation. The official statistics for January reveal the severity of the treatment.

Inflation, 900 per cent last year, soared to over 65 per cent a month, although this month, for the first time, prices began to respond to market conditions and some fell. Wages, by contrast, rose by only 1.3 per cent. Domestic production fell by a fifth in comparison with the previous January, and both exports and imports showed sharp falls. In any other country, such figures would signal disaster; in Poland, it means the experiment is roughly on

course. The preplanned slump is intended to reduce inflation to 4.5 per cent (a month) by June, and to a manageable 2.3 per cent for the rest of the year.

The Government openly acknowledges that it is gambling on speedy results in the macroeconomic sphere — and risking social as well as economic chaos if it fails. But it argues that the distortions in Poland's economy are so great that it had no choice but to throw the people into the water and tell them to swim.

The astonishing fact is that most ordinary Poles, whose already low incomes are expected to fall by a fifth before recovery sets in, are taking the medicine quietly, even proudly. They have made the connection between freedom and the free market.

The next steps will be even more difficult. Poland's huge vertically integrated monopolies govern every aspect of distribution and production; before privatization, they must be broken up to encourage competition. The Government plans to create a "factories hospital" to put the better companies on their feet, and to court foreign investment in agro-industry to get food into the shops at affordable prices. The Government will tread a knife-edge as it turns to the supply side: it must create incentives for production, and for consumers, without courting a return to hyper-inflation.

The approval on Tuesday of the IMF's \$700 million stabilization loan, promptly followed by \$360 million from the World Bank will give Mr Balcerowicz a breathing space. Next week in Paris, Poland will ask Western governments not only to reschedule, but to write down, its existing debts. They will be reluctant to set a precedent which Latin American debtors would immediately invoke. The question is, however, whether they can afford, in the interest of stability in Eastern Europe, to refuse. Poland is doing what no country has tried to do: the West should acknowledge its courage by casting bread on the uncharted waters it is crossing.

A PRINCELY ROLE

The visionary project devised and promoted by the Prince of Wales for a "community army" of youth is gradually assuming more shape. The outline of the scheme was published yesterday in a consultative document produced jointly by the Prince's Trust and the Commission on Citizenship, which was launched by the Speaker of the Commons, Mr Bernard Weatherill, in 1988.

A great deal of thought has clearly been given to avoiding both the obvious and the hidden pitfalls. The idea of encouraging young people to devote a few months of their lives to organized but unpaid service to the community can hardly in itself cause controversy, unless British society has turned its back on virtually all its most important values and beliefs. But its translation into reality must inevitably run an ideological gauntlet, for it could tread on some sensitive toes.

What is proposed is much more than a scheme for getting idle and unemployed youth off the streets. It is primarily concerned with the moulding of personality and character. Prince Charles' conviction is that young people of all classes and backgrounds need significant challenges if they are to mature to self-reliance. He believes they need the moral growth and sense of belonging that comes from the experience of service to others. There is a dimension of individual self-improvement, therefore, but also of involvement in the improvement of society.

The realms of the individual and the social are sometimes treated as opposites. The tension or balance between them is the theme current in much political debate — the former associated with the right, the latter with the left. Neither the heir to the throne nor Mr Speaker can afford to be connected too obviously with either side of the divide; but they share the advantage that they start from

neutral ground, and can call on both sides for assistance and support. And as long as these two dimensions receive equal emphasis, they can rightly expect to receive that support, though those of one persuasion might be expected to emphasize the individual dimension and those of the other the social.

Mr David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside and a member of Labour's national executive, has described the Prince's project as built on principles of service to the community that go back to the origins of the Labour movement. Government ministers, on the other hand, see a continuity between what the Prince is trying to achieve and the values of the enterprise culture. In truth, these are not opposites — it is only the necessary dialectic of the British party political debate that makes them seem so. The objectives of youth community service are neither those of the Young Conservatives nor of the Young Socialists, but something transcending both.

The Prince's philosophy of "the whole man", which is implied in his approach to youth community service, supposes that the ideal is a balance and that the balance is attainable. It is a noble goal. There would, of course, be risks to him if it went wrong, most of all if it were seen as leaning too far on either side of the balance.

Yesterday's outline suggests that this has not happened so far, and that the Prince and his advisers are sufficiently politically alert to steer a confident course that will continue to attract all-party support and keep clear of damaging labels. He is not engaged in the moral formation of "Thatcher's children" or indeed of "Kinnock's children" — that would be an improper role for the heir to the throne to concern himself with — but of good citizens who are also good people. That is an entirely proper role for a prince.

Heavier calls on NHS resources

From Dr Oscar Hill

Sir, There has been a massive change in the Government's position on NHS reforms that has not received the attention it deserves. From April 1991, all elements of the NHS must be financed by negotiated contracts. London teaching district treats patients from something like 40 districts and an indeterminate number of budget-holding GPs. Being centrally placed, they receive and admit commuters as casualties and those who find it convenient to attend near their place of work.

The major hospitals can offer specialist services not available locally and the standard of care in a teaching hospital may be higher than in some local hospitals, thus attracting patients. The hospital managers are ill-prepared for the complex task of negotiating contracts with equally unprepared districts.

Because of these difficulties, financial stringency, and the historic links within a district between the purchaser and provider of services it will be tempting to require everyone to be located after in their own district. They could well require casualties seen elsewhere to be transferred to a local facility as soon as possible, as is the current practice with psychiatric emergencies. There is some merit in this approach, but there are extensive ramifications that require debate.

Not only will this policy severely limit patient choice, but there will be a drastic fall in the clinical activity and revenue of the major teaching hospitals, damaging their service, teaching, and research.

Of the different aspects of trust status — local recognition of terms and conditions of employment, commercial management of capital assets, and financial dependence on contracts for patient care — the third is the most radical, with the most immediate impact. The entire NHS has been told that it can expect to take the major step towards trust status by April 1991, entirely contrary to the Government's earlier position that trust status would be awarded only to units with sound management systems.

I can understand and share the Government's impatience with the inefficiencies of the NHS, but if the Government in frustration makes unrealistic demands of the poor old NHS horse it will not go better, but is more likely to collapse between the shafts. Yours faithfully,

OSCAR HILL,
10 Harley Street, W1.

The Satanic Verses'

From Mr Herb Greer

Sir, The statement from the families of British hostages (report, February 6) is wrong. The *Satanic Verses* did not cause "serious damage to community relations in Britain and deaths around the world". Books are passive objects. Those difficulties and horrors were caused by the chosen actions of vindictive and bigoted human beings.

It is depressing to see people who have suffered directly from such bigotry and malice join the ranks of certain well-meaning public figures, and trounce those who have caused their suffering.

If our century has taught us anything, it is the grim lesson that such appeasement does not propitiate the bigoted and malicious; on the contrary, gawelling inspires them to inflict still more hideous ordeals on the rest of us who have not suffered — yet. Is that really what the families of the hostages want?

Yours faithfully,
HERB GREER,
124 Fog Lane,
Didsbury, Manchester 20.

Competitive posts

From Mr Peter Kane

Sir, Alan Turpin of the Union of Communication Workers (February 3) states that if the Post Office letter monopoly is removed, the universal tariff will disappear. I do not accept that this will happen.

In a competitive market place, the users of mail services will not wish to have the complication of dealing with a supplier who offers different rates for various parts of the country. The customer will demand, and get, a single rate for the whole country.

The Post Office should be able, because of its established branch network and sorting centres, to compete with any private operator. If the playing field is not level it surely lies in favour of the Post Office.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KANE (Chairman),
Business Post Ltd,
Express House, Crystal Way,
Harlow, Middlesex.

Unlikely skirl
From Mrs Fiona Jack

Sir, Yesterday, while walking in the beautiful larch forest above this sophisticated mountain resort, I heard the sound of bagpipes. Being a Scot I had to investigate. I met, in a clearing, a delightful Dutch girl who said it was the perfect place to practise. In what other unusual places have your readers heard the pipes being practised, and by whom?

Yours faithfully,
FIONA M. JACK,
Chalet Sous-Bois,
3963 Crans Montana,
Switzerland.

February 2.

New beginnings in Eastern Europe

From Dr W. H. Zawadzki

Sir, How many Germans would endorse Mr Modrow's call (report, February 2) to make Berlin the capital of a reunited federal Germany? Is there not a strong case against Berlin, the symbol of former Prussian domination of Germany and a city situated since 1945 on the eastern periphery of the country?

Should the Germans not be encouraged to look further back into their past, beyond the Bismarckian era, to the long history of the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation and opt for one of the cities where the Imperial Diet used to meet? What about Frankfurt-on-Main, which also hosted the liberal Parliament of 1848-49 and is today the financial centre of Western Germany with excellent air facilities?

Greater Berlin could become a separate Land (like Hamburg) or perhaps the chief city of a Land based on historic Brandenburg.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. ZAWADZKI,
Abingdon School,
Park Road,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

February 2.

From Dr David Le Vay

Sir, The recent changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have led to military establishments on both sides of the old iron Curtain uncertain as to their future role, as exemplified by the present correspondence in your columns (February 7) about new patterns of activity for our own Army.

The old pattern of the West

confronted by an evil Soviet empire was curiously stabilizing: each side knew its part and the dangers of an actual conflict were such as to exclude its materializing.

Now, everything is changing and very volatile, and therefore dangerous. The rerudescence of nationalism means that local conflicts may trigger enormous consequences as in 1914.

One way of resolving these anxieties, by doing something that is in any case inevitable, is by the establishment of a world police — of a Pax Nordica, imposed by the USA, Europe, Russia, and, yes, China. This would make allies of old enemies and achieve, at a stroke, what the UN has never been able to do. It would maintain the self-respect of national armed forces uneasily seeking a new role.

The time has long gone when

representatives of unimportant or

ideologically-motivated countries

should be allowed to block effec-

tive peace-keeping force on behalf of this country.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID LE VAY,
6 Carstons, High Street,

Burwash, East Sussex.

February 7.

From Dr P. Hackett and
Mr J. Jones

Sir, We should like to suggest that

one very practical form of assis-

tance to East European countries

would be the provision of free

education, both in scientific-techni-

cal disciplines and the humanities,

at United Kingdom higher

education institutions. The app-

roximate cost of funding under-

graduate study for, say, 1,000

young men and women, drawn

from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia,

the German Democratic Repub-

lic, Hungary, Poland and Roma-

nia, would be of the order of £10

million per annum.

The expenditure of this admini-

trated not insignificant amount of

money would be welcomed and

appreciated by the individuals of

the governments of the countries

concerned. Regardless of any di-

rect financial advantages that

might accrue to the United King-

dom over time, we should hope

that these unpaid future graduate

ambassadors would exercise a

long-term beneficial influence on

behalf of this country.

Yours faithfully,



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 8: His Excellency Teuku Mohammad Hadi Thayeb was received in audience by The Prince of Wales and The Princess Royal, Counsellors of State acting on behalf of The Queen, and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Indonesia to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Rhonius Soerijatmaja (Minister), Mr Soejono Soerijadmo (Minister Counsellor), Mrs Siti Aminah Soejono Kromodjoko (Minister Counsellor), Mr Budiman Darmonoanto (Counsellor), Mr Nasir Mulyana (First Secretary), Mr Djoko Hardono (First Secretary), Colonel Syam Soemazaga (Defence Attaché) and Mr Didi Abdurrahman (Commercial Attaché).

Their Royal Highnesses also received Sri Mariam Hadi Thayeb.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Queen was represented by the Viscount Long (Lord in Waiting) at the Memorial Service for the Lord Elwyn-Jones (Formerly Lord Chancellor) which was held in Westminster Abbey, today.

The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited UBU Hats Limited, 526 Belize Park Gardens, London NW3.

Afterwards Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, 30 Liddell Road, Mr Walker Limited, 224 Weston Road, London NW6.

The Princess Royal, Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will visit Monkton Combe School, Bath, at 11.30 and open the new boarding house for girls; as a Visitor of the Dorothy House Hospice, will visit the foundation, 164 Bloomfield Road, at 12.40; and visit the Geology Department of Bristol University at 2.15. Later, as Patron of the Home Farm Trust, she will

balance and Nursing Cadets, attended the Annual Banquet of the Anglo Mauritian Association at Guildhall, London EC2.

Mrs Malcolm Wallace was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE

February 8: Queen Elizabeth II.

The Queen Mother, accompanied by The Princess Royal,

and The Prince of Wales, attended a Reception given at St James's Palace to mark the 150th anniversary of the first running of the Grand Military Gold Cup.

The Lady Elizabeth Bassett and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

February 8: The Prince of

Wales, President, The Prince of

Wales Advisory Group on

Disability, held a meeting at St

James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Communi-

ty Project, visited The Char-

ity Hungerford Project at 32a

Wardour Street, W1.

Mrs Max Pike was in

attendance.

The Prince of Wales was repre-

sented by the Lord Clevedon of

Pearson at the Memorial Ser-

vice for the Lord Elwyn-Jones

which was held in Westminster

Abbey, today.

YORK HOUSE

February 8: The Duke and

Duchess of Kent were repre-

sented by Mr Andrew Palmer at

the Memorial Service for the

Lord Elwyn-Jones which was

held in Westminster Abbey, today.

RICHMOND PARK

February 8: Princess Alexandra, Princess of the Mental Health Foundation, was represented by the Lady Mary Maud, President of the Memorial Service for the Lord Elwyn-Jones which was held in Westminster Abbey, today.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

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Blackface sheep

He was also active as a JP and Lord Lieutenant of Argyll.

His practical scouting had

amounted to no more than prep

school Cubs. But he showed an

immediate grasp of what was nec-

essary for the movement when he

became Chief Scout of the UK, and

Chief Scout of the Commonwealth in

1959.

Under his aegis an 24-man working

party set out to revolutionize the

scouting image. The image of "little

Johnny of the Pews", with badges

down to the elbows was consigned to

the dustbin. Scouts were henceforth to

be Scouts, not Boy Scouts. Short

trousers were swept away in the

whirlwind of reform. A host of new

adventure activities, such as gliding

and caving were added to the tradi-

tional fare of camping, tying a

thousand species of knot, and lighting

fires without matches. Even the

Applejacks pop group, then riding

high in the Top 10, were enlisted in

the campaign. Maclean pointing out

that their vocal talents had been

honed in Gang Show performances.

"We must do more to show that

scouting is really swinging and with

it," declared Maclean to the appalled

elders round the campfires. By the

time he stood down in 1975, scouting

was a movement with a radically

altered image.

He had in the meantime (1971)

become Lord Chamberlain and a Life

Peer. As the senior officer of the Royal

Household it fell to him to oversee the

ceremonial of all Royal occasions

which were not State occasions.

Mercifully, the most unpopular func-

tion of the Lord Chamberlain — that

of stage censorship — had been

relinquished in the 1960s.

Lord Maclean's first ceremonial

assignment, the funeral of the Duke of

Windsor, in 1972, was a testing one,

given the relationship of the Crown to

the Windsors. But he was adjudged by

even unrelenting observers of Court

protocol to have passed with flying

colours. Assembled at Heathrow,

ready to pounce upon the slightest

error, the royal-watchers noted with

approval that his farewell to the

Duchess of Windsor did not include a

bow.

He was born at Weybridge

on October 24, 1927, and became a Grenadier Guardsman in early life.

He went into bookelling

almost by accident, and perhaps mainly because his second wife was a writer, and a sensitive one. While engaged

in strenuous commercial business

he had suffered, in 1967, a very severe heart attack.

Told that he needed to avoid undue exertion (which in fact

was meat and drink to him) he

chose to set up a bookshop.

The marvellously stocked

shop he opened in Farham,

Surrey, in the year following

his illness was certainly the

ancestor — in so far as this

exists — of the Waterstone's

and the Dillon's of today. He

set out, perhaps partly in-

fluenced by the great book-sellers of university towns, to

create a bright, well-ordered,

attractive and above all well-

stocked shop. And he suc-

ceeded beyond anyone's

expectations.

In 1973 Hammick's real

genius became apparent. He

now wanted to create a chain

of shops, but needed a rather

better profit margin upon

which to work. He therefore

himself became his own

wholesaler. By the time his

chain was sold to Menzies

there were 30 shops. Some of

these became particularly well

known: besides Farham,

there were shops at Windsor

(with a cafe) and Norwich

(which supplied the students

of the University of East

Anglia).

He was supported by, and

was on the board (though not

very actively) of Associated

Book Publishers until 1987.

Hammick could be ruthless,

but was never so in an

underhand manner. On one

occasion, when he reported a

rival shop for Sunday trading,

he first called the proprietor

and began: "This is Charles

Hammick and this is what I

propose to do..."

He knew about everyone

who worked for him, and was

a benevolent despot in the

best sense: exceedingly gen-

erous, open and considerate.

A great and courageous

character, he entered into

everything he did with enthu-

siasm and efficient gusto.

When he left the book trade

in 1987 he characteristically

entered business as the man-

<p

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

To honour the Lord is to honour all. J Paul, pride and arrow words.

Proverbs 3: 13

BIRTHS

ACKERMAN - On February 6th, at The Portland Memorial, to Sally and Roy, Brian, a son, 11 months.

ADAMS - On February 7th, Alan J, Caroline and Ruth, Stephen, a daughter.

BARNETT - On February 7th, 1990, Judith (née Wardle) Barnett, a daughter.

BREWSTER - On February 8th, to Christopher and Sandra, Harry David, a brother for Jack.

CARLSON - On January 28th, 1990, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Jane, a daughter, and Daniel, a son, Christopher, a sister for George.

CLARKE-JOHNSON - On February 5th, to Christopher and Anne Thomas, and Andrew, a daughter, Alexandra Clare, a son for Christopher and Linda.

DODGE-SMITH - On February 5th, to Christopher and Anne, a son, George Samuel, a brother for Saskia.

EVANS - On February 7th, to Christopher and Anne, a son, Nicholas, a brother for Christopher.

EDDIE-PANTINGTON - On January 25th 1990, to Jane (née Angus) and Peter, a son, Christopher, a daughter, and a son, George.

GARNER - On January 29th, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

GROHOLZ - On February 5th, at The Portland Hospital, to Muriel and Karl, a daughter.

HICKSON - On February 7th, to Petronella (née Stewart) and Jonny, a daughter, a sister to Thomas and Anne.

SHERWOOD-ROBERTS - On January 25th 1990, to Carolyn and Peter, a son, Christopher, a daughter, and Clemency Caroline, a sister, for Elliot, Tristan and Piers.

STEVENS - On February 1st, 1990, Lewis (née Jones) and Michael, a second son, George William.

STEVEN - On February 5th, to Christopher and Anne, a son, George and Adrian, a son, Nicholas, a brother for Christopher, and Alexander and Harriet.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

TURKILL-STEELE-PERKINS - On February 9th, 1940, in London, Margaret (née Ditch) to Agnes Mabel (née Weston), now at Sermon Church Lane, Worcester, a Surrey anniversaries and love from all the family and friends.

DEATHS

AUSTIN - On February 5th, Anthony John (Tony) LL Cdr. R.N. (Rtd), younger son of the late Vice Admiral Sir and Lady Austin, brother to Vice Admiral Sir. Peter Austin (Rtd).

CLIFFORD - On February 7th, 1990, peacefully at home, Kathleen Mary (née Goss) Clifford, widow of the late W.W. Clifford. Will be sadly missed by her sister, nephews and nieces. Funeral service at St. Paul's Church, 13th, Family flowers only, donations to Radcliffe Hospital Research Institute, Manchester. Post, c/o Dr. C. Alcock, Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

PARKING - On Wednesday 7th, February 7th, 1990, suddenly, Christopher, a son, and Lady Austin, brother to Vice Admiral Sir. Peter Austin (Rtd).

COLE - On February 7th, 1990, Richard Mark and mother-in-law of Alice, peacefully in hospital.

FAMILY - Funeral to be followed by a memorial service at a later date.

DONATIONS - In lieu of flowers, please to Radcliffe Hospital Research Institute, Manchester.

FOOT - On Friday 9th, February 9th, 1990, at St Giles Church, Ashton, Surrey, followed by a memorial service at a later date.

GRANDEUR - On February 8th, peacefully, Marjorie, loved mother of Rodney and Jenny and loving granma of Julie and Nick.

HARDY - On February 8th, 1990, after a long illness, Dennis, a son, and wife, a daughter.

HICKSON - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

HOBSON - On February 8th, 1990, at St. Peter's Church, Chesham, to Christopher and Anne Hobson.

JONES - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

KELLY - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

LAWRENCE - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

MORRISON - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

PEPPER - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

ROBERTS - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

ROSE - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

SHAW - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

SMITH - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

THOMAS - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

WATSON - On February 8th, 1990, in Kilkis, Maha, Safiahan, Bahashan, to Deborah and Jacob Thomas.

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WILSON - On February 8th, 199

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FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

THE ARTS

Surfeit of porridge

THEATRE
Sheridan Morley

Fans of the Australian soap-opera *Prisoner Cell Block H*, arguably the worst thing to have happened in Sydney since the arrival of the first British convicts, will have been fascinated by two examinations transmitted last night of the realities of modern prison life.

BBC 2's *40 Minutes* on "The Danger Men" looked at an experimental wing in Hull Prison where convicted murderers and other high-risk offenders are given a new soft-sofa treatment in the hope of making them better citizens, or at any rate better prisoners. The scheme costs £1 million, at a time of severe prison economies elsewhere, and is likely to fill correspondence columns with outrage. There was even a *Monty Python*-esque quality about the whole affair as prisoners sat around in luxury discussing previous incarnations, much as returning holidaymakers analyze different resorts.

Surprisingly, one of the genuine pig prisoners escaped with the help of a visiting teacher during the making of the film, while another memorably noted that when stabbing a man 30 times and generally jumping on him, he was both very annoyed and 18 stone.

The programme was largely uncritical of the project. For anger about the current prison system one had to turn to *This Week* (ITV), where Richard Lindley had some chilling interviews with inmates of secure mental hospitals who have been found " unfit to plead" and are therefore in effect sentenced for life to their own insanity.

But prisoners locked away "without limits of time" because they are mentally unstable may also only be murderers within their own imaginations: as long as they are kept away from the courts, not only are they unable to have their causes heard, but the killers who performed the murders are no longer being sought by the police either.

Leading lady finds her range

THEATRE
John Higgins*La traviata*
Coliseum

It is a fair bet that the Coliseum will be putting out the HOUSE FULL notices during the run of this revival of *La traviata*. And the reason is the presence of Helen Field in the title role.

When David Pountney's chilly, didactic and often perverse staging of Verdi was first seen 18 months ago, Field was fighting her way towards a portrait of Violetta. She has now found it. There is the fragile child-woman of Act I, snatching at each passing pleasure from Stefano Lazzaridis's now notorious chaise-longue resting in an improbable field of corn. (In such surroundings, Pountney suggests, Paris's top-hatted bourgeoisie dream of getting their oats.)

But Helen Field's real triumph comes in Violetta's two great

John Russell Taylor on the overdue re-assessment of an English 18th-century master painter, Wright of Derby

Back into the light at last

When a major exhibition turns up in London with the imposing credentials of being organized jointly by the Tate Gallery, the French Musées Nationaux (for the Grand Palais in Paris) and the Metropolitan in New York, one hardly expects to find that the subject is an English artist. Much less that it is not Gainsborough, Reynolds, Constable or Turner, which seems to be about as far as the taste for *le style anglais* extends on the other side of the Channel.

Nevertheless, the Wright of Derby show (Tate, until April 22) comes to us with precisely these qualifications. More remarkable still, it comprises upwards of 170 original works and nearly 50 reproductive prints, and is devoted to an artist of whom even many British art-lovers have hardly heard.

Identifying features? Well, Wright's most familiar pictures all make virtuoso play with light from a source concealed somewhere within the picture. Even those who do not know the title or the painter would probably be familiar, at least in reproduction, with the National Gallery's "An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump" or Derby Art Gallery's "A Philosopher giving that Lecture on the Orrery, in which a lamp is put in place of the Sun", now at the Tate

wright's Cotton Mills by Night".

But it is not only historic and documentary interest which has made these paintings famous. It is their cunning and intricate composition, which neatly manages to combine educational interest with straightforward human detail, such as the frightened little girl who has to be persuaded that the bird in the air pump is coming to no harm. In this respect Wright clearly anticipates the popular genre pieces of the 19th-century, and so remained popular long after many of his contemporaries had come to look merely faded and old-fashioned.

In addition, there is the technical/anecdotal interest (akin to "See how the eyes follow you round the room") in his handling of light. The two best-sellers have in common with many of his

lesser works a dramatic contrast of light and dark: the light emanating from some concealed source, a candle or a lamp, somewhere in the centre of the pictorial space, and radiating out until it is lost in the shadowy surroundings in such a way that the features of the figures around it are modelled by a strong chiaroscuro, almost theatrical in effect.

The smaller, simpler pictures in the same line, like "Two Boys Fighting over Bladder" or "Two Girls Dressing a Kitten", are full of drama, and the skill of their painting is so self-evident that even people who know very little about the technique of art are impressed.

Of course, these dramatic light-and-shade pieces were not all that Joseph Wright accomplished in a prolific career spanning nearly

half a century. He began as a portrait painter of the local Midland gentry, and continued to paint portraits throughout his life.

It is not always easy to make up one's mind how far to feel about the portraits: with hindsight it is impossible not to notice that Wright's mastery of soft-focus effects might be the envy of many a classic Hollywood photographer; and there is, undeniably, a strong hint of sentimentalism in the way his sitters' faces are deprived of hard outline and frequently fade hazily into the scenery around the edges.

On the other hand, Wright probably not have rejected the charge, or even thought that it was a charge. He clearly prided himself on being a man of feeling. Sentiment, in a rather fussy and funereal 18th-century shape, is

prominent in many of his more fanciful later pictures, such as those inspired by the doleful heroines of Sterne.

There are, it is true, some acute portraits of older women, and some of younger men which make you wonder whether Wright meant to present them in quite such an unappealing light. But for a modern audience the most attractive of his works, apart from the chiaroscuro set-pieces, are likely to be the landscapes. As might be expected, given his preoccupation with the drama of light, the sights that he found most striking and productive on his extended trip to Italy 1773-75, were the fireworks of Rome and the eruptions of Vesuvius.

The first he saw, the second he had to imagine, since unfortunately the volcano did not see fit to put on a show while he was there. But he painted both frequently, and with such success that his grandest paintings of each subject were bought by Catherine the Great, and are seen at the Tate courtesy of loans from the Hermitage and the Pushkin Museum.

Even better are some of the quieter Italian landscapes, real or imaginary, with or without banditti. In particular there is an amazing picture of 1790 (like many artists of the period, he went on and on working over his sketches and his memories), described simply as "An Italian Landscape", where the folds of the mountain across the water are rendered so economically in alternating bands of lavender and grey-green that we could imagine we were looking at something by one of Gauguin's disciples, or, less grandly, one of the pre-war dandies to classic Balsford books.

Wright emerges – in the league-table of comparable painters recently memorialized by the Tate – as a little below Stubbs in interest, and decidedly above Agassiz. And it is comforting that his best-known paintings turn out actually to be his best as well.

A soloist saves the occasion

CONCERT

Paul Griffiths

CBSO/Salonen
Birmingham Town Hall

It was worth doing without a certain weight in Brahms's Violin Concerto to hear the piece played so beautifully in tune: Cho-Liang Lin seemed to enjoy exploring the highest register with perfect clarity. He also enjoyed observing small points of articulation, sailing on long phrases or executing double stops without any effort, and bringing a delicacy to the rhythm. The gypsy associations of the finale, for instance, were forgotten in favour of a smiling, skittish playfulness.

But the accompaniment was being achieved with much less polish. The wind players of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, normally a characterful bunch, sounded unbelievably dull and uncertain in the introduction to the slow movement, and there was altogether a lack of rhythmic firmness, for which the conductor, Esa-Pekka Salonen, substituted a rather implausible bellicosity of sound and gesture.

Worse was to come in the second half, in a lumbering, fragmentary and sometimes incomprehensible performance of Schoenberg's *Pelleas und Melisande*. There was little harmonic driving force to carry the music from section to section (or occasionally even from bar to bar), and the immensely complex textures, which need such careful balancing, often seemed to be happening by accident, so that one heard one or two salient details surrounded by a stodge.

Instead of seeming an extraordinary feat of musical development, therefore, the work came over as grossly repetitive, and one can only hope for some improvement before the repeat performance at the Barbican this evening.



"A Philosopher giving that Lecture on the Orrery, in which a lamp is put in place of the Sun", now at the Tate

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Conflict of honesty made flesh

THEATRE
Benedict Nightingale*The Price*
Young Vic

Helen Field: triumph as Violetta

For Arthur Miller, the key moment in modern American history was not Vietnam, not even World War Two, but the crash of 1929 and the ensuing depression. Those events stripped the trappings and trimmings from the nation and showed the heart within. They revealed to everyone what she or he morally was.

Miller has acknowledged all this in his non-dramatic writings, most recently his autobiography *Time-bends*, and in several plays, most explicitly *The American Clock*. The same recognition illuminates *The Price*, the latest of his works to be revived at the Young Vic and far from the least. Indeed, David Thacker's sensitive yet robust production may well establish it, at any rate in British eyes, among his masterpieces.

As you enter the theatre, you are forcefully made aware of the forum in which the dramatic conflicts are largely to be fought. There are piles of ancient tables, chairs and bric-a-brac, cumulatively representing the past, or *The Past*. This is where old man Franz, ruined in 1929, frittered away the next 30 years. Now he is dead, and everything is to be sold to a wily old assessor. What is its value, what its price?

Those are also the questions faced by the protagonists, Franz's sons. Vic left college, became a cop, looked after his father. The price of that choice was money and career; the value, moral peace. Walter上升了 and became a doctor. The value was wealth and success; the price, unease and unhappiness; a broken marriage and a bad conscience.

Since Miller has the pathological skills of his teacher Ibsen, all this makes for a fascinatingly intricate post-mortem examination. However, it is Walter's belated attempt to resuscitate the brothers' long-dead relationship that provides most of the drama, particularly as there are guilty secrets to be revealed. And certainly Thacker succeeds in bringing Miller's master-theme, the

degree of our responsibility to ourselves and each other, more surely to life than I recall when *The Price* was originally produced here, 20 years ago.

He knows what it is like to see a sibling after a long estrangement: the shy watchfulness, the well-meaning but ill-judged gesture, the hidden rancour, the irrepressible anger. He understands the emotional contours of a marriage as husband and wife shift from weariness to warmth to hostility and back again, all for reasons incomprehensible to the outsider. He senses just when and how heat gets intolerably intense, and simmer becomes boil.

But then he has expert performers in Bob Peck, David Calder and Marjorie Yates, playing Walter, Vic and Vic's exasperated wife.



Alan MacNaughtan (left) and Bob Peck in Arthur Miller's *The Price*

Comic confusion at the seaside

Jeremy Kingston

The Comedy of Errors
Theatre Royal, Bath

It is a remarkable fact that both Shakespeare and Ayckbourn began their literary careers with a plot resting totally upon a confusion of identity. Shakespeare with this day in the life of a Mediterranean seaport and the Bard of Scarborough with *Relative Values*.

It is even more interesting that

Glen Walford has joined them as guest director though it is too early to say whether the glittering and almost fairytale settings of the new designer, Rodney Ford, befit any permanent shift in pictorial style.

Where the History plays are

bloody reality, the comic errors in

Ephesus belong in a semi-mythical

realm, brushed with magic, where

everything ends happily. Even

Dromio of Syracuse escapes the

threat of having to bed down with

his twin's fat wife.

The bewitching settings elevate

the imagery of the sea to a more

prominent level than the play

really justifies. Ford drapes the

two side pavilions with fishing

nets, between which we see a blue-

green watery depth and a ship

beached.

What instrumental

music there is comes from *The Flying Dutchman*, where the quest for unity has a very different outcome, but the vocal music of brief chants and keening is original, other-worldly, sometimes quite funny and nicely placed.

The details of this setting give occupation to the eye whilst the ear copes with the Abbess's long speech and the tedious arguments for wifely duty. But when the twins are strutting their stuff the comedy of the plot takes over, enormously helped by the striking physical resemblance of the actors.

Mark Anstee and John Elmes are indistinguishable as the two Antiphonuses, yuppie braves forever stretching out their arms in madly heroic protests, and the crew-cut, gormless Dromios (Charles Dale, Stephen Jameson) also look identical, even when on stage together. This happy casting, and fine phrasing by Christopher Saul and John Darrell, make the evening a comic success despite the symbolic overview that Walford seems to have in mind.

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[ج ۳۱ ن ۱۵۰]

THE ARTS/ROCK

Rose Rouse talks to the abrasive singer-songwriter Billy Bragg, who has just set up his own recording label

Pillow talk and pink politics

Billy Bragg should be renowned for the acuity of his tongue as much as for his socialist politics and his often intimate personal songs. Half-way through our conversation, he picks me up for including him in the pop star genre. "Careful with your terminology there, Rose," working musician, please," he says, with a provocative twinkle in his eye.

Bragg is often depicted as a dour left-winger. He is not. Humorous repartee is one of the chief weapons with which he is wont to goad his audience out of any indulgent complacency. At a recent concert, he chided the crowd for singing along to his lyrics, and sang new songs so they could not. He has also been known to give men in the audience a mini-lecture on bedroom tenderness. "What I'm trying to do, whether writing, singing or talking it between, is to communicate."

Neither is he politically predictable. Invited to East Germany last February because of his anti-Tory stance, Bragg refused to toe the GDR line and denounced the existence of the Berlin Wall on television. "I said: 'I went to the Berlin Wall yesterday and now I realize what it is - it's a nature reserve for the ecology-minded people of the GDR to protect the bunny rabbits of Berlin. That's wonderful, but personally I think it's time the bunny rabbits were allowed to run freely.'" He was immediately informed that he would not be invited back to East Germany.

1989 was a travelling rather than a recording year for Bragg. "I don't think I have had a single tour every three months and an album every 18 months. I've always relied on live gigs to keep myself in the public eye," he said.

Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Bolivia, America, Portugal, Switzerland, Mexico and Greece all featured on his itinerary for different reasons. "I didn't go to China to play," he says. "I just went for a butcher's." He arrived shortly before the events of



Is he a door left-winger? Billy Bragg admits his fifth album is "political" at least insofar as it includes a rewritten version of *The Internationale*

Tiananmen Square, and met many young Chinese musicians. "They wanted to know about the ideas in the West and were very pro-Gorbachov," he said.

In the States, he found himself pursued by "anyone more interested in spicier politics than Tracey Chapman had to offer". In Mexico he was dogged by practical difficulties. "We had to rewire all the halls because they had no earth. The guy who did it earnt the PA to the front row of metal seats that the audience sits on."

Bragg regularly gives his audiences different ratings according to their reactions. "There's the 'we like you and we know every one of your songs better than you do' (Hackney Empire at New Year); there's the 'we're interested and gun-ho but we haven't bought all the records yet' (most of America) and finally the 'someone from England's playing guitar, let's all go' (Lithuania and Mexico)."

Depending on the level of linguistic comprehension, Bragg does either his chatty set or his "U2 in football stadium" set.

Chiefly a songwriter rather than a singer - he sings with conviction rather than a wonderful voice - Bragg surprised his loyal followers in 1988 by releasing an album, *Workers Playtime*, that did not contain any political songs. Claiming disenchantment after the third Tory victory, Bragg decided to turn inwards for inspiration. Songs such as "Valentine's Day is Over" even attempt to deal with what it feels like to be a victim of male violence as the woman in a relationship.

"Women have said that I can't know what it's like, but I'm writing it for men," says Bragg.

At present, he is recording his fifth album: a political one. Apart from his own compositions, there is a new version of *The Internationale*. With characteristic gall,

Bragg has rewritten it. "Well, it definitely needed updating," he says. A reluctant studio person, Bragg says: "The studio is too precise, making records is a chore."

Billy Bragg, who doesn't drive a car and lives in a flat in Acton (but reluctantly refrains from taking his laundry home to his mother), has made a fair bit of money over the last few years. Consequently, he decided to invest some of this in his own record label, Utility Records. "The idea is to deal with those people who are getting turned down by both major and independent labels. The indie scene has got as myopic as the mainstream one. I'm really fed up with it."

Utility has an ideology which consists of "not signing the band up for 100 records and not getting any money as an advance". So what do the artists gain from the experience? "A recording contract

that's long-term on their terms," he says. "It's a step up; they don't go naked and unknown to other record companies and feel pressurized into accepting their terms." In fact, Bragg would wholly approve if all the deals were one-off, where the musicians moved on as a result.

Utility has already released six albums. Newcomers on the label are Caroline Tretteine, a folk singer with a sensual voice, and Clea and McLeod, two Scottish women who sing in a rousing vocal style about topics such as men and shop-lifting.

As I am about to leave, Bragg assesses himself: "In the end, I'm trying to be more than just a geezer playing songs. That's not enough," he says with genuine feeling.

• Utility releases two albums, *Beyond Our Means* by Clea and McLeod and *Be a Devil* by Caroline Tretteine, on February 26.

Partially rendered

BOOK REVIEW

David Sinclair

Rockonomics: The Money Behind the Music
by Marc Eliot
Omnibus £12.95

Despite the radical idealism which most rock stars casually espouse, the industry in which they have all chosen to work and hope to prosper has traditionally been run according to an ethos of *laissez-faire* gone mad. Mick Jagger probably spoke more truthfully and more plainly than most when he said "If you don't go for as much money as you can possibly get, then I think you're stupid".

Accordingly, Marc Eliot, an actor turned writing graduate of Columbia University, attempts to trace the history of rock in terms of the economic imperatives which had crucial influence on the affairs of its prime movers.

Unfortunately his enquiries have not focused on anything particularly new, and no matter how detailed the account, the time hardly seems ripe for yet another trawl through the murky waters of Fifties' payola and the demise of Alan Freed, or Colonel Tom Parker's notoriously venal handling of Elvis Presley's career, or Allen Klein's various run-ins with the Beatles and the Stones, or Berry Gordy's setting up of Motown, or the deals that went down backstage at Woodstock.

Eliot's account, which is almost entirely related to the American side of the industry, does not even reach the Eighties until Chapter 19 (out of 22) and then proceeds to skip through the decade in a dead prose style that vacillates between that of the hip academic - "While it may not be everyone's bag, there's no denying the pervasive influence of rap music, particularly among today's economically disenfranchised urban street youth" - and the financial pages: "49 albums went platinum in 1983, down 11 per cent from the 55 albums of the previous year and a full 25 percent from the 66 that had made it in 1980".

There is doubtless an entertaining and enlightening book to be written on the business structures that have evolved to service such a powerful and glamorous global industry, but this is not it.

As it turned out, 1984 was a

critical year for rap. Hollywood dabbled with a few rap musicals, breakdancing became a worldwide fad and groups like Run-D.M.C. recorded hits which made no concessions to the white pop market. Rap became the voice, and in a sense the stigma, of the young black male. With drug abuse soaring in America's cities, poor areas became virtual war zones and rap was the soundtrack.

In consequence, much of the best rap produced between 1985 and 1988 was ignored by outsiders.

Serious, witty, innovative acts like Run-D.M.C. and Eric B. & Rakim became tainted by the reputation of alienating violence and misogyny. But over the last few years the claustrophobic air of guns, drugs, sexism and self-aggrandisement has begun to clear. Rap is losing its image as the unelcome noise made by a racial underclass.

Rap acts such as The Jungle Brothers, De La Soul, X-Clan, Queen Latifah, Digital Underground, A Tribe Called Quest, Divine Styler, DJ Jazzy Jeff and Fresh Prince and Latain Shabazz have produced music which challenges the musical and lyrical forms



DJ Jazzy Jeff and Fresh Prince: they feature dense overlays of sound

A glorious patchwork

ALBUMS

David Sinclair

The Blue Aeroplanes: Swagger (Ensign CHEN 13)

It is difficult to think of a group with a more severe presentation problem than that of the Blue Aeroplanes. To add to the duff name, there is the archetypal indie ghetto image, the self-conscious and irritatingly hyperactive live show, and now a cheap monochrome video to advertise the current single "Jacket Hangs", so awful that it stood out like a yawn in a mosque on *The Chart Show* last week. Small wonder that the band has achieved the unusual feat of releasing four albums while remaining virtually unknown.

On the credit side, they come from Bristol - hardly an area to rival Manchester, but nevertheless a city that is quietly gaining an air of music business credibility - and their fifth album, *Swagger*, is so exceptionally good that people will simply have to take notice.

Produced by Gil Norton (*Pixies*, *Echo & the Bunnymen*, the *Triffids*), *Swagger* is a glorious, swirling patchwork of massed chiming guitars overlaid with the stream-of-consciousness lyrics of Gerard Langley, who intones rather than sings in a lilting voice that is suggestive of how Andy White might have sounded if he had been raised in the south of England instead of Belfast. The overall effect is redolent of the way in which Mark Knopfler can make his indistinct vocal grunts sound tuneful by entwining it round melodic phrases.

The gladiatorial interplay between the group's three guitarists produces a wealth of exquisitely romantic tunes and textures ranging from the tough Neil Young-like chug and thrust of "Jacket Hangs", to the achingly beautiful, Van Morrison-ring "Weightless". R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe contributes backing vocals to "What It Is", another stirring piece of metaphysical moodiness underpinned by lovely, twinkling arpeggios threaded together like pearls on a string.

Forget what you have or have not heard about the Blue Aeroplanes, and make investigation of this album a priority.

The Havalinas: The Havalinas (Elektra EKT 69)

Despite being "personally selected" by cranky old Bob Dylan as the support group on his current European dates, the Havalinas have turned in a better-than-decent debut. Although newcomers collectively, singer and multi-instrumentalist Tim McConnell and bassist Smitty Smith have been comparing tattoos since they were both members of the New York punkabilly band the Rockets ten years ago. Joined by Chalo Quintana, the charismatic, chain-smoking drummer formerly of LA-Mex



The Havalinas: stadium sound doused with ecologically-caring lyrics

WEEKEND GIGS

Compiled by David Sinclair, David Toop and Rose Rouse

LOS LEONES DE LA SIERRA: With a mixture of guitars and violins, this eight-piece band from Mexico represents a style known as Huapango Trova. They are led by Pedro Velazquez, a songster who is reported to be going for being a Mexican Woodie Guthrie.

Ronnie Scott's, Frit Street, London, W1 (01-439 0747), Sunday, 8pm, £25.

A GUY CALLED GERALD: This Mercurial wizard of the drum machine and sampler has had his share of problems since "Voo Doo Ray" was a hit last year. A new record deal will surely help him fulfil his potential.

Goldsmith University, Cleveland Road, London NW3 (0815 39125), Sunday, 6.30pm, £25.

NEW JERSEY MATHS CHOIR: Despite your youthful beliefs, gospel shows by young Americans have an uncanny ability to raise a lump in the throat by the sheer force of emotion which they project. This experienced choir is likely to prove no exception.

Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London, W1 (01-580 0902), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £22.50.

THE HAVALINAS: Polished rock band from LA, who are on tour here as support for Bob Dylan, going for a stadium sound doused with ecology caring lyrics.

Loop-Dot Midlands add heads whose

new album, *A Glided Eternity*, is an utterly formless assemblage of grungy guitar riffs, bestened down by a clentry overloaded bass and coloured by their merest hint of a airy vocal.

One Two, Mayflower Street, Bradford (0274 592712), tomorrow, 7pm, £2.50.

Leadmill, Leadmill Road, Sheffield (0742 754500), Saturday, 8.30pm, £22.50-23.50.

Junction 10, Bantley Road North, Wakefield (0922 649100), Sunday, 7pm, £24.

Brilliant, All Saints Street, Bristol (0222 269514), Monday, 7.30pm, £25.

DEL AMITRI: After teetering on the brink of success for so long, the Glasgow four-piece has deservedly breached the Top 20 with the untypically restrained single "Nothing Ever Happens".

Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne (0691 476725), tonight, 8pm, £4.50.

Nottingham University, Nottingham (0602 476725), Sunday, 7.30pm, £4.50.

Coventry Polytechnic, Priory Street, Coventry (0203 851315), Saturday, 7.30pm, £3.50.

Birkbeck, All Saints Street, Bristol (0222 269514), Sunday, 7.30pm, £4.

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Everything But The Girl/The Language Of Life LP £5.99, Cassette £5.99, CD £10.99

This stunning new album from Everything But The Girl comprises

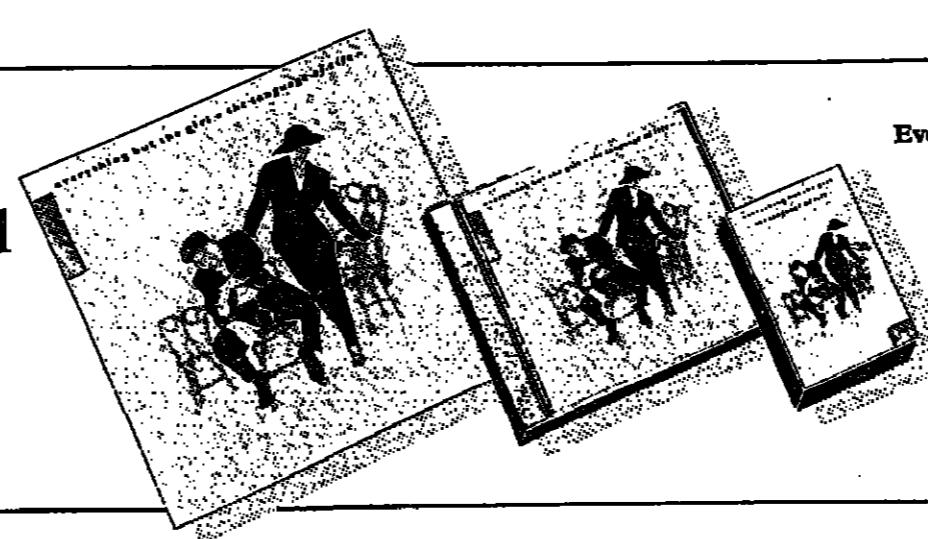
ten tracks, including the atmospheric new single, 'Driving.'

Prices correct at time of going to press.

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WEEKEND INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
* Seats available
* Returns only
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FILMS

■ Also on national release
■ Advance booking pre-sale

■ **BLACK RAIN** (18): Crime story by director Ridley Scott about a harpooned New York police officer, a Japanese gangster through Oscar, Andy Garcia and Ken Takakura (125 mins). Cannon Baker Street (01-836 9772), Progs 2.10, 5.30, 6.10, 10. Late Fri and Sat 11.00.
■ **PIPER'S FLAME** (15): War-heated film with the popular touch. Pauline Collins repeats her stage role as the Liverpool housewife rediscovering romance (109 min).
■ **CANNON FULHAM ROAD** (15): Progs 2.10, 6.10, 9.05. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.10, 6.10, 9.05. Plaza (01-437 1234). Progs 12.15, 3.00, 5.45, 8.30.

■ **SHIRLEY VALENTINE** (15): Warm-hearted film with the popular touch. Pauline Collins repeats her stage role as the Liverpool housewife rediscovering romance (109 min).
■ **CANNON FULHAM ROAD** (15): Progs 2.10, 6.10, 9.05. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.10, 6.10, 9.05. Plaza (01-437 1234). Progs 12.15, 3.00, 5.45, 8.30.

■ **TURNER AND HOOCHE** (PG): Prog 1.45. A gentle comedy with some charm by Tom Hanks as the police investigator (90 min).

■ **CANNON CHEESE** (01-352 5036): Progs 1.45, 4.10, 7.10, 9.40. Odeon Kensington (01-502 6544). Progs 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 10. Warner West End (01-439 0791). Progs 1.40, 4.05, 6.25, 8.45.

■ **WHEN HARRY MET SALLY** (15): Engaging romantic comedy, with Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan as professional Matchmakers who gradually fall in love with each other. Written by Nora Ephron, directed by Rob Reiner (95 min). Cannon Chesse (01-352 5036). Progs 1.40, 4.05, 7.20, 9.45. Odeon Kensington (01-502 6544). Progs 1.40, 4.15, 7.15, 9.40. Curzon West End (01-737 2636). Progs 2.10, 5.15, 8.15.

■ **CASUALTIES OF WAR** (18): American atrocities in Vietnam, viewed through the eyes of the soldier standing apart from the brutal antics of Sean Penn (114 mins). Odeon Kensington (01-602 6644). Progs 8.40. Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905). Progs 2.10, 5.30, 8.00. Warner West End (01-438 0791). Progs 12.55, 3.25, 6.05, 8.35.

■ **A DRY WHITE SEASON** (15): Powerful spartan thriller (from Andrzej Brink's novel), with Donald Sutherland as a mild-mannered whose conscience is being eaten. Directed by Euzhan Palcy, with a lovely cameo from Marion Brando (108 min). Cannon Chesse (01-351 1028). Progs 1.40, 4.15, 7.15, 9.40.

■ **PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN** (15): Prog 1.40, 4.15, 7.15, 9.40.

■ **THE LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN** (18): Raw, powerful version of Helen Fielding's once-controversial novel of Brooklyn life, from the director of *Christiane F.* Ulrich Seidl. With Stephen Lang, Jennifer Jason Leigh (102 min). Odeon Kensington (01-602 6644). Progs 2.2, 5.20, 8.20.

■ **ODEON KENSINGTON** (01-602 6644). Progs 1.20, 5.20, 8.20.

■ **ODEON SWISS COTTAGE** (01-722 5905). Progs 2.10, 5.30, 8.00.

■ **WHITE HORSE INN** (01-438 0791). Progs 12.55, 3.25, 6.05, 8.35.

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■ **WHITE HORSE INN** (01-438 0791). Progs 12.55, 3.25, 6.05, 8.35.

■ **JESUS OF MONTREAL** (18): An updated version of a Passion Play causes controversy in Montreal. French Canadian director of *The Decline of the American Empire* (120 min). Lumière (01-836 0691). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.05, 8.40.

■ **CHRISTIANE F.** (18): Director of *Christiane F.* Ulrich Seidl. With Stephen Lang, Jennifer Jason Leigh (102 min). Odeon Kensington (01-602 6644). Progs 2.2, 5.20, 8.20.

■ **ODEON KENSINGTON** (01-602 6644). Progs 1.20, 5.20, 8.20.

■ **ODEON SWISS COTTAGE** (01-722 5905). Progs 2.10, 5.30, 8.00.

■ **WHITE HORSE INN** (01-438 0791). Progs 12.55, 3.25, 6.05, 8.35.

■ **LOCK UP** (18): Sylvester Stallone trying to soft-pedal the brutality and drawn as a model prisoner faced with an unanged and vengeful warden (108 min). Curzon Oxford Street (01-836 0310). Progs 12.40, 3.15, 5.50, 8.25.

■ **ODEON KENSINGTON** (01-602 6644). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.10, 8.45.

■ **CANADA PRINCE CHARLES** (01-437 8181). Progs 1.10, 3.20, 5.45, 8.20.

■ **PARENTHOOD** (12): Epicomic heart-warming from Howard about the joys and sorrows of raising children. Features a former boxer (Steve Martin, Mary Steenburgen, Dennis Waterman, Jason Robards) (114 mins).

TOP FILMS AND VIDEOS**LONDON:**

1 (1) **Black Rain**
2 (2) **When Harry Met Sally**
3 (2) **Parenthood**
4 (2) **East to Brooklyn**
5 (4) **Turner and Hooch**
6 (7) **Lock-Up**
7 (7) **Shirley Valentine**
8 (8) **A Dry White Season**
9 (7) **Casualties of War**

Supplied by Screen International

OUTSIDE LONDON:

1 **Black Rain**
2 **Parenthood**
3 **When Harry Met Sally**
4 **Turner and Hooch**
5 **The Delinquents**

Supplied by Screen International

UNITED STATES:

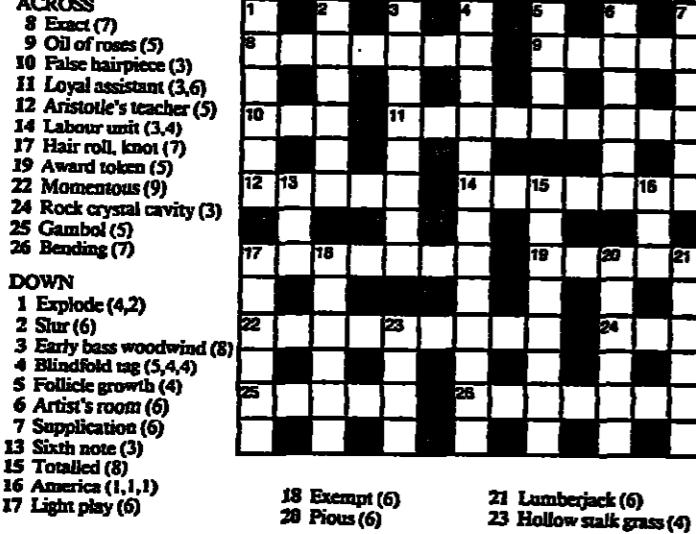
1 (1) **Driving Miss Daisy**
2 (2) **Stella**
3 (2) **Born on the Fourth of July**
4 (3) **Forrest Gump**
5 (5) **Flashback**
6 (5) **Internal Affairs**
7 (4) **The War of the Roses**
8 (6) **Tremors**
9 (5) **Heart Condition**
10 (6) **Steel Magnolias**

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VIDEO RENTALS:

1 **Nightmare on Elm Street IV**
2 **Red Scorpion**
3 **Betrayed**
4 **Cocoon: The Return**
5 **Beaches**

Supplied by Video Business

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DOWN: 1 Reprof, 2 Mirror, 3 Rat, 5 Freedon, 6 Spoon, 7 Fancy, 8 Team, 15 Totalled, 16 Expert, 17 Celib, 18 Nipper, 20 Acme

ENTERTAINMENTS**OPERA & BALLET**

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STARLIGHT EXPRESS

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics by Richard Stilgoe
Directed by Trevor Nunn
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Lyrics by Tim Rice
Directed by Trevor Nunn
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Music by William Shakespeare
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QUEEN'S HALL, Clark St, Edinburgh

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Sat 6.45, 8.00, 10.00, 11.30pm

WEEKEND INFORMATION SERVICE

10.00, £12.50, £14.00

ENTERTAINMENTS

10.00, £12.50, £14.00

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

ENTERPRISE

A Maep, daughter of Jupiter and Maestra. She presided over music, and was said to have invented the flute and all other wind instruments.

GERYON

A monster with three bodies and heads, who lived at Cadiz. He kept sheep, guarded by two-headed dog Orthos and a centaur Erythron. As one of his labours, Hercules killed him and rusted his sheep.

PHINEUS

A King of Troy in Asia Minor. For killing the children of his first marriage, he was blinded by blinding and Zetes sent the Harpies to keep him in a constant state of jitter, and to dirty his food.

TEIRESIAS

The blind Theban seer. Zeus and Hera asked him whether a man or woman derived more pleasure from sex. Teiresias replied that women derive nine times as much pleasure as men. Hera struck him blind, but Zeus gave him accurate prophecy.

LAST 3 PERES

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

WINNING MOVE

Answers from page 20

GLOBE OF HORSES

01-377 2653 cc 01-377 2654

01-377 2655 cc 01-377 2656

01-377 2657 cc 01-377 2658

01-377 2659 cc 01-377 2660

TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian Maxey

Under female direction

ENTERTAINMENT CHOICE

Peter Waymark

Not so long ago you would have been able to count the world's women film directors on the fingers of one hand and probably have a finger or two over. Now you need at least the fingers of both hands. Although they are still rare enough to be commented on, women directors are starting to have an impact. Many of these trail-blazers are interviewed in *Calling the Shots* (Channel 4, 11.30pm), a feature-length documentary by Janis Cole and Holly Dale, two



Breaching a male preserve: Agnes Varda, the French film director (C4, 11.30pm) Canadians. Eschewing a commentary, Cole and Dale make little attempt to impose a pattern on their material beyond roughly grouping it under such themes as how the women became directors, the obstacles they encountered and their credits as artists. Given this approach it is difficult to draw neat conclusions, although this is not necessarily a drawback. The experiences and outlook of the older Continental directors, such as Mai Zetterling, Jeanne Moreau and Agnes Varda, are not those of the younger Americans, Susan Seidelman and Penelope Spheeris. That the subjects need to be raised at all is justification enough. In another decade or two, perhaps, there will be enough women behind the camera for it to be no longer an issue. And Channel 4 will not feel itself obliged to put on seasons of films by women, as it is from next week. *Donna Deitch's Deseret Hearts* is the first of 28 features, many of them being shown on television for the first time. Meanwhile, Cole and Dale have assembled valuable first-hand accounts from articulate and determined women who are at last beginning to break a male preserve.

The latest offering from the *Survival Special*, *The Desert and the Deep Blue Sea* (ITV, 8.00pm) visits the coast of Mauritania in West Africa. In common with the conventions of natural history documentaries, this one has a wildlife-in-danger message, although for once, the villain is not necessarily human. Unlikely, that is, the 16-year absence of rain in the Sahara Desert can be traced back to the destruction of forests. But the propaganda takes second place to the photography, brilliant even by the high standards of the genre. Among the more striking of many memorable images captured by David Shale's cameras are crabs feeding themselves with a single paw, spoonbills fighting over material for their nests and the flamboyant courtship rituals of the flamingo.

BBC 1

6.00 *Ceefax*.
6.30 Breakfast News with Laurie Meyer and Jill Dando. Includes regular news headlines; business news; travel and weather details. Plus a look at the morning newspapers with Paul Callan. **8.30** Regional news and weather.

9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Viewers comment on yesterday's television programmes.

9.20 *Kirkby*. Robert Kirkby-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.

10.00 *Picturehouse* (cont'd). News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r).

10.25 Children's BBC, presented by Simon Parkin, begins with *Playdays*.

10.50 *Roobarb* narrated by Richard Briers (r). **10.55** *Five to Eleven*, Catherine Griller with a reading.

11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Today: Jayne Irving and Emma Holmes are joined by American reporter, Elaine Llewellyn.

12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live presented by Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers.

12.30 *News and Weather* includes Simon Potter with this week's weather forecast from the world of *showbiz*.

1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. Madge finds her something in common with Harold. (*Ceefax*)

1.30 *Paint Party Serenade* (1941, b/w)

2.00 *One City Girl* and Irene Dunne. Emotional drama about couple who go through hell and back in their struggle to adopt a baby, after their own is still-born. Directed by George Stevens.

3.50 Is That a Fact? An investigation into the legend of Robin Hood 4.05

Jacksonian, Michael Williams with part of Alison Prince's *How's Your New York Beer Show* 4.20 *Corporation* and Co, with David Copperfield (r).

5.00 *Newsworld Extra*. Roger Finn reports on a group of children who have taken the anti-smoking campaign into their own hands and launched Smokebusters — a project that is now nationwide. 5.10 *Grange Hill*, Episode 12. (*Ceefax*)

5.30 *Neighbours* (r). (*Ceefax*)

6.00 One O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather

6.30 *Newsround* and South East.

7.00 *Wogies*. Tonight Terry announces the final sum raised by viewers in the 1989 *Children in Need* Appeal.

The guests include his appeal co-host Sue Cook and the Finchley Music Group who sing the appeal's anthem.

7.30 *Safe Islands* (1983) starring Tommy Lee Jones, Michael O'Keefe and Jenny Seagrove. Mid-19th century South Seas swashbuckling drama about a brigadier who kills a missionary and his fiancée who has been captured by a notorious pirate. Directed by Ferdinand Fairfax. (*Ceefax*)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Marilyn Lewis. Regional news and weather

9.30 *Campion: Dancers in Mourning*. Episode one of a two-part mystery in which private investigator Campion is hired to discover the perpetrator of practical jokes against a popular and successful star of musical comedy. He takes a male companion, Campion's investigations lead to the star's Sussex home where events take on a serious complexion after the death of an actress guest. Starring Peter Davison, Brian Glover and Ian Ogilvy. (*Ceefax*)

10.25 International Snooker. David Icke introduces further coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament. Tonight, the fourth quarterfinal. The commentator is Ted Lowe, Jack Keanem, Steve Evans and Ray Edmunds. With summaries by John Spencer and Ed Chilton.

11.45 *Sins of the Past* (1984) starring Barbara Carrera, Anthony Geary and Kim Cattrall. A group of high-class call girls give up their profession when one of them is brutally murdered. Years later, with the killer safely behind bars, the women begin to receive reminders of their past. Scared, they turn to their former "madam" for help. Now a successful businesswoman, she is willing to reveal secrets hidden away in a terrifying nightmare. Directed by Peter Hunt. (*Ceefax*)

1.30am Weather

ITV/LONDON

6.00 *TV-am* begins with News and Good Morning Britain presented by Richard Kaye and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Loraine Kelly. With news at 7.30, 7.50, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine includes Russell Grant's sunsigns.

9.25 *Lucky Laddies*. Word association game with host Linda Brent.

10.00 *The Time ... The Place ...*

Anne Diamond chairs a discussion on a topical subject.

10.40 *This Morning*. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition features items on health and beauty, pet care and gardening advice. Includes national and international news at 11.30 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather.

12.10 *Rainbow*. Learning with puppets and songs.

12.45 *Wednesday*. Learning with puppets and songs.

1.00 *News One* with John Suchet. Weather 1.20 *Thames News and Weather*.

1.30 *It's a Vet's Life*. Vet John Baxter looks for injured animals, while Anna Walker visits the Cambridge University Veterinary School. 2.00 *The Bill* (r).

3.00 *Win, Lose or Draw*. Game show hosted by Danny Baker 3.25 *Thames News and Weather* 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*. Australian drama serial.

4.00 *Midnight*. Timmy Mallett tries to keep up with talented sorobet Deborah Poppe 4.20 *Round the Bend* 4.45 *Palace Hill*. Comedy series set in a school.

5.10 *Home and Away* (r).

5.40 *News with Sue Carpenter*. Weather

6.00 *5 Plus* with Shaw Taylor.

6.30 Six O'Clock Live presented by Frank Bough, includes an interview with Alan Hepden, the plumber who won £1,500,000 on the football pools.

7.00 *Concentration*. Game show 7.20 *Coronation Street*. Liz McDonald demands that her husband chooses between her and the army. (*Oracile*)

8.00 *Survival Special: The Desert and the Deep Blue Sea*. (*Oracile* see *Choice*)

9.00 *Stolen*. The final episode of the drama starring Art Malik and Cheryl Prime. After 12 years after being taken to live in Pakistan, Yasmin and Bobby return to London to visit their mother. (*Oracile*)

10.00 *News at Ten* with Sandy Gall and Julia Somerville. Weather 10.35 *LWT News and Weather*.

10.40 *The London Programme*.

Tonight's edition examines the controversy surrounding the licensing of minicabs in the capital.

11.10 *Beauty and the Beast*. Cathy investigates the case of a mysterious man/besti who is attacking subway crabs.

12.05am *Midnight with Children*. After Al and Peggy have a row he decides to teach her a lesson by not coming home.

12.35 *William Tell*. Tell is captured by mercenaries, but fortunately her father turns out to be an old friend of Tell's.

1.00 *The James Whale Radio Show*. James Whale hosts another edition of television's controversial phone-in show.

2.00 *One Foot in the Door*. From Hollywood, Steve March with the films currently drawing the crowds in the USA, plus movie news and a look at the best of the forthcoming releases.

2.30 *The CARE Concert*. Charity concert in support of Conservation Aid for Rainforests and Elephants, held in the Peace Hall, Halifax, last August. Featured in the first of three programmes taken from the concert are Steve Harley, Julian Sherburn, Vanilla Sound Company, Bob Geldof and the Real Sounds of Africa.

3.30 *Mid Tips*. More advice from the experts.

4.00 *Sid World*. Information for all those who are planning to take advantage of the snow that has finally arrived on the Continent.

4.30 *Crusade in Europe*. This week's programme looks at the historic meeting in Casablanca of the Joint Chiefs of Staff which ended in the announcement of the "unconditional surrender" of Nazi Germany.

5.00 *ITN Morning News* with Richard Batt. Ends at 6.00.

BBC 2

6.45 *Open University: The Planet Earth - A Scientific Model* 7.10 *Close*

8.00 *New 8.15 Westminster*

9.15 *Daytime on Two*: science for teachers 9.45 Art and design 10.05

Learning to read 10.25 A disabled child in Scotland 10.45 A story for children 11.05 Ending a play 11.30 *Two's Company* 11.45 Scottish cheeses 12.00 Spanish for beginners 12.15 Part two of the drama about two young men coming terms with their sexuality 12.45 *Waves of Talking 1.20 Chris and Crumble 1.40 Stories depicting real life*

2.00 News and weather followed by a series for the very young 2.15 *Weekend Outlook* (r).

2.20 *Sport on Friday*. Counter-final action in the Benson and Hedges Masters. Plus news of the day's other sporting fixtures and results 2.30 *International Snooker*.

5.00 *Clean State* includes a report on the growing level of alcohol consumption among teenagers

5.30 *Food and Drink* (r).

6.00 *ITN News* 6.00 *Documentary* (r) 6.15 *John Doe*. Western adventure about a man who hires a gang to help him avenge the wrong-doings of an uncle. Directed by William Whitney.

7.30 *Vision*. Dr Zaid Badawi, chairman of the Imams and Mosques Council talks about multicultural Britain in the 1980s. (London only)

8.00 *Eye*. Targeting the General. An investigation into cover police operations against football hooligans

8.30 *First Time Planting*. (*Ceefax*)

9.00 *Cafe's Sandwich*. Comedy series starring Mel Smith. (*Ceefax*)

9.30 *Arena*: Roberto Rossetti. A profile of the celebrated Italian film director.

10.30 *Newsnight* 11.15 *Weather*

11.20 *Crime*. *Death Sentence* (1971) 11.30 *Dirk Bogarde, Birthe, Birthe*. Birthe Andersen and Birthe Mikkelsen. Adaptation of Thomas Mann's novel about a German composer who falls in love with an angelic-looking 14-year-old Polish boy. Directed by Luchino Visconti. (*Ceefax*). Ends at 1.30am

VARIATIONS

BBC1 7.00 *Wales* 7.20 *Wales Today*

7.30 *Reporting Scotland* 8.30 *Moray's Scotland*

8.00 *Friday Sports* 10.00 *Wednesday Night Football*

8.30 *Monty Python's Flying Circus* 9.00 *Monday Night Football*

9.00 *Wales* 9.30 *Spelling It Out* 9.30 *Step Up to Womble* 9.45 *Shut Up* 10.00 *Wales Today*

10.30 *ITN News* 11.00 *Weather*

11.30 *ITN News* 12.00 *Wednesday Night Football*

1.00 *Wales* 1.30 *Wednesday Night Football*

2.00 *Wales* 2.30 *Wednesday Night Football*

3.00 *Wales* 3.30 *Wednesday Night Football*

4.00 *Wales* 4.30 *Wednesday Night Football*

5.00 *Wales* 5.30 *Wednesday Night Football*

6.00 *Wales* 6.30 *Wednesday Night Football*

7.00 *Wales* 7.30 *Wednesday Night Football*

8.00 *Wales* 8.30 *Wednesday Night Football*

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6875 (-0.0110)
W German mark 2.8240 (+0.0122)
Exchange index 89.1 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1845.3 (+1.9)
FT-SE 100 2331.0 (+2.6)
USM (Dastream) 156.04 (+0.59)

Market report, page 25

Ward falls to £7.22m

Ward Holdings saw its profits from housing construction collapse in the year ended October 31 — from £1.29 million to £0.04 million — which left the group with a year end pre-tax profit of £7.22 million against £14.4 million. At the net level, profits fell from £9.53 million to £4.46 million.

The final stay at 21p to make 2.6p again, out of net earnings down from 18.1p to 8.5p a share.

Turnover was £63.4 million against £59.7 million, with a poorer house construction figure offset by increased property investment and commercial development. There was a substantial loss on London housing operations.

Loss forecast

Strong & Fisher (Holdings), the leather manufacturer, expects a further loss for the six months to December 29, but an improvement on the £1.9 million loss in the second half last year. *Tempus*, page 22

STOCK MARKETS

New York Dow Jones 2650.23 (+10.14)
Tokyo Nikkei Average 3751.624 (+214.37)
Hong Kong Hang Seng 2903.77 (+58.88)
Amsterdam DAX 1915.79 (+15.68)
CIB Tendency 111.3 (+1.2)
Sydney ASX 1848.4 (+2.8)
Frankfurt DAX 1915.79 (+15.68)
Paris CAC 6118.13 (-48.63)
Paris CAC 519.22 (-2.51)
Zurich S&K 6182 (+6.2)
London FT-A All-Share 1164.32 (+8.77)
FT-500 1289.10 (+11.58)
FT Gold Miners 372.8 (-2.0)
FT Fixed Interest 91.48 (+0.21)
FT Govt Secs 81.28 (+0.46)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RATES:
Grand Met 604p (+10c)
Globo 7051p (+12c)
Cable & Wireless 558p (+15c)
Herland Simon 710p (+10c)
Macro 4 2522p (+10c)
Micro Focus 4541p (+10c)
Dowes & Met 'A' 275p (+20c)
Mu-Swift 4877p (+25c)
Antofagasta 500p (+10c)
WPP 8971p (+21c)
Shell 485p (+10c)
Carton Com 788p (+17c)
Roshcough 355p (+10c)
PJ Carroll 165p (+10c)

RATES:
S Miller 1211p (-20c)
DAKS Simpson 'A' 4577p (-15c)
Yale & Valor 2875p (-12c)
Eblef 324p (-13c)
News Corp 4821p (-20c)

Cooling prices
Bargains 25086
SEAG Volume 458.0m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%
3-month Interbank 15%-15.1%
3-month eligible bills 14%-14.12%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8.5%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.80-7.78%
50-year bonds 9.5-9.6%

CURRENCIES

London:
\$ 1.6875
£ DM 2.8240
£ SwF 2.5211
£ FF 9.5598
£ Yen 142.88
£ Index 9.1
ECU 20.723085
£ ECU 32.2983

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$418.50 pm \$418.00
close \$418.75-417.25 (2247.00-
247.50)
New York:
Comex \$417.50-418.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$19.75bbl (\$19.70)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.17
Austria Sch	20.05
Belgium Fr	52.05
Canada \$	21.05
Denmark Kr	12.31
France Fr	5.95
Germany Dr	2.245
Hong Kong \$	2.65
Ireland P	13.83
Italy Lira	11.04
Iraq Dinar	21.05
Japan Yen	250
Netherlands Gld	2.04
New Zealand \$	10.74
Norway Kr	250.75
South Africa R	4.70
Spain Pta	10.87
Sweden Kr	2.63
Switzerland Fr	4.65
Turkey Lira	1.75
USA \$	1.00
Yugoslavia Dinar	1.00

Notes for small denominations bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Bank rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 116.8 (December)

East Europe rates threat fear by Bank

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England fears that the opening up of Eastern Europe is putting inflationary pressure on West Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, and threatens to create a high interest rate climate across the region.

Concerned that monetary tightening overseas and high British wage settlements could weaken the pound and push up costs and prices in Britain more rapidly, the Bank calls on the Government in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin* to "maintain a firm fiscal stance and prevent any relaxation of monetary conditions."

In line with the Treasury projection, it expects the economy to slow markedly this year, but identifies risks of even lower activity and higher inflation.

Given high debt servicing costs, sharper-than-expected cutbacks in personal and corporate spending cannot be ruled out.

The Bank's anxieties about the economic impact of developments in Eastern Europe coincide with fears expressed by Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank, who has urged a cautious approach to Eastern Europe so as not to jeopardize West German and Western Europe's stability.

But the West German government's political priorities appear to have secured reluctant support from Herr Pöhl for urgent talks with East Germany on economic and monetary union. The prospect of early union, on top of the massive inflow of East German funds, has fuelled fears in the

financial markets about inflation in West Germany.

The Bank said: "Given the pivotal role of the Deutsche mark, it is essential for continued progress against inflation in Europe that German monetary policy should remain firm."

This is seen as especially important as West German tax reforms are about to exert a significant expansionary impact on demand. This year's wage round is also critical, with the trades unions confronting employers against a background of strong growth, improved profitability and skills shortages.

While the reappraisal of West Germany's prospects helped the mark appreciate by

Comment 23

6 per cent in effective terms in the second half of last year, dampening inflationary pressures, the Bank believes adverse developments in Eastern Europe would have a negative effect and the "potential for further domestically-generated inflation remains significant." For the early part of this year, however, it anticipates West German inflation easing.

A realignment of exchange rates within the European Monetary System is seen as one way of lowering West German inflation, but the Bank sees such a move raising inflationary pressure elsewhere.

Though the Bank considers it too early to gauge the scale and composition of capital flows to Eastern Europe, it foresees this extra demand putting upward pressure on

interest rates. East Germany is recognized as a "special case" in Eastern Europe, but the Bank cautions that the monetary aspects of integration with West Germany will "call for considerable care if the transitions is to be smooth."

Though pleased that the pound has recovered, without a base rate increase, from its lows of last year, the Bank is worried that Britain could come under renewed pressure to raise rates if West Germany and Japan move higher.

It was a West German base rate increase last October which forced UK base rates up to 15 per cent.

In Frankfurt, the DAX index of 30 leading shares closed at 1,915.79, up 15.69 points. German shares have risen nearly 34 per cent since East Germany threw open its borders in November. The mark eased back yesterday as dealers sought to assess developments and a more positive sentiment emerged for the dollar.

On the UK economy, the Bank said the downward trend in growth of demand and output is now "firmly established." Consumer spending has fallen sharply.

However, it describes the financial picture as "more obscure", with lending to households much more subdued last year, but lending to business "erratic". The Bank said UK inflation remained "uncomfortably high" and recent sterling weakness may have added to inflationary pressures. The inflation rate is likely to remain "fairly volatile" over the coming months.

Hilton hotels head leaves Ladbrooke to start own business

By Martin Waller and Melinda Wittstock

Touche Ross, the auditor, has won a landmark case in the House of Lords which ruled its duty of care did not extend to potential investors in a company audited by the firm.

The accounting firm appealed against a ruling made in the Court of Appeal that auditors have a duty of care to individual shareholders of a company when preparing their audit.

The ruling narrows the duty of care owed third parties by auditors of public accounts.

Caparo Group, Mr Swraj Paul's private holding company, was trying to establish that Touche Ross owed Caparo a duty of care as the firm audited the accounts of take over target Fidelity, the audio and television company.

The ruling narrows the duty of care owed third parties by auditors of public accounts.

Caparo alleged that Fidelity's assets had been inflated by £10 million when the company was bought from the Dickman family in 1984. The case was a preliminary issue to Caparo's potential claim for £14 million in damages against the auditors.

The Law Lords' decision, however, does not affect auditors' liability to their clients for any losses that can be attributed to auditor negligence.

Touche Ross argued a management should not be allowed to blame the adverse consequences of an investment decision based solely on the information in accounts on the auditors of those accounts.

Mr John Jarvis, head of Ladbrooke Group's Hilton International hotels division and the man widely tipped as heir apparent to Mr Cyril Stein, chairman, has left abruptly to set up his own hotels chain in this country.

The news came as a surprise to the City, and the shares, on an otherwise good day for the stock market, were marked back 6p to 306p.

He is succeeded by Mr Michael Hirst, his deputy at Hilton, who joined the same year that he did, in 1975.

Ladbrooke said the split was amicable and there was no question of compensation. We have accepted the surrender of his service contract. He is setting up his own business.

He denied Mr Jarvis had occupied any particularly high

position on the Ladbrooke board.

"We have a very young board of directors, all of whom are regarded as heirs apparent. There are a series of young turks waiting to take over from Cyril," he said.

But one analyst, asked about the reason for the apparent split, commented:

"Everybody is asking the same question. He was the driving force — he was the guy who was expected to take over from Cyril Stein."

Mr Jarvis, in Amsterdam at an airport Hilton yesterday afternoon, said: "I want to emphasize that this is totally amicable. The only thing to do after running the world's number one hotel company is to set up my own.

"It is hardly unexpected. It's been more than two years since I achieved the chairmanship in October 1987 when we bought Hilton and now the time is right to be independent."

Mr Jarvis declined to comment on his new business plans, but said the new UK hotel operations would be in an entirely different realm from the Hilton chain.

Mr Hirst, who admitted he

was surprised by the resignation, said there would be no change of direction at Hilton whatsoever. He said he was sorry to see Mr Jarvis go.

Garston paid into NFMC from unauthorized client funds

Garston paid into NFMC from unauthorized client funds

Collapse could cost investor £140,000

By Neil Bennett

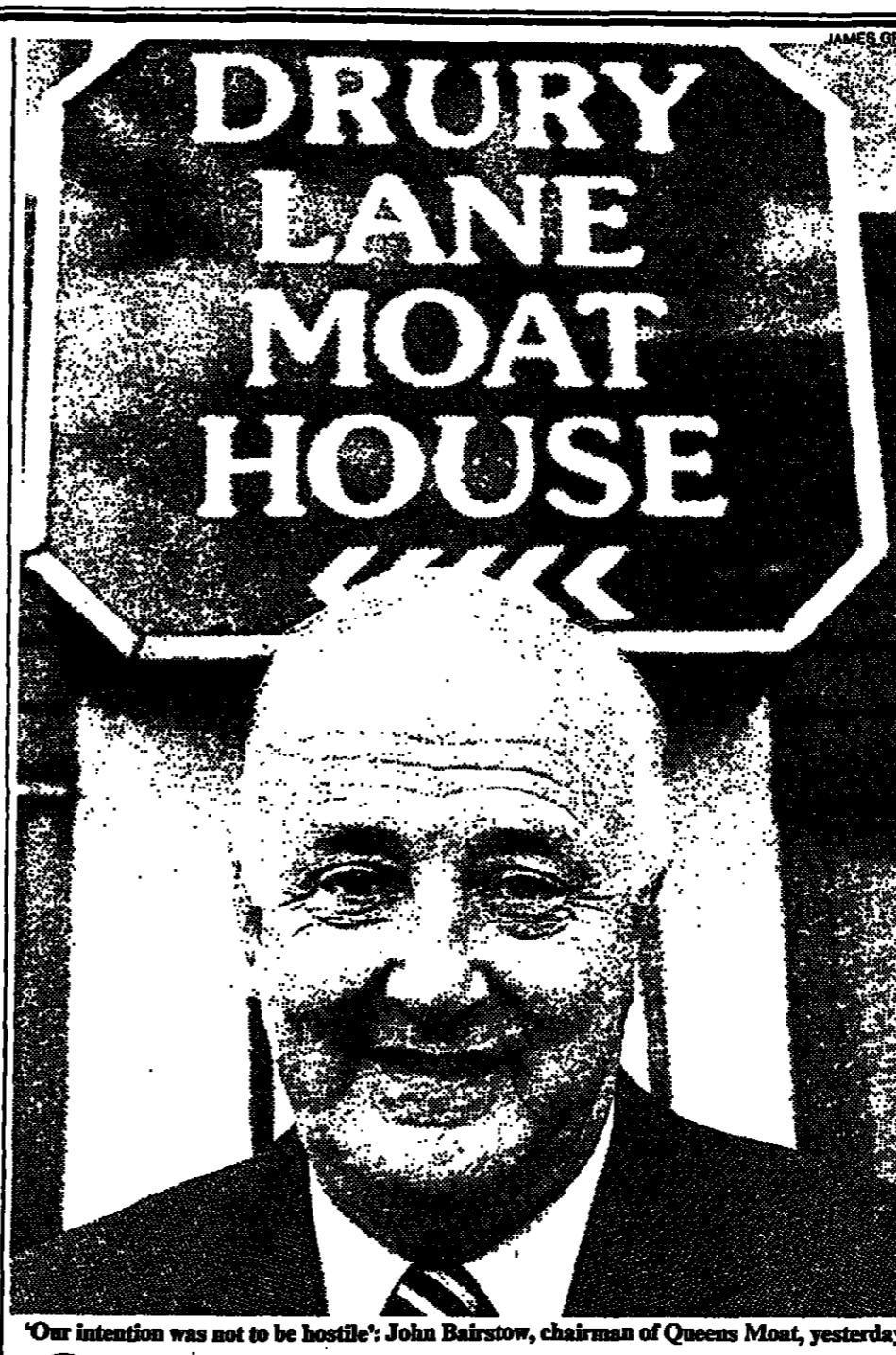
A former investor in Garston Amhurst, the collapsed insurance agent, has revealed that the company was paying money from its unauthorized client funds into National Financial Management Corporation, the TSB Group offshoot, for almost two years before it was spotted.

The news will further embarrass NFMC in its attempts to untangle itself from the affair. The company maintains it knew nothing of Garston's unauthorized fund until the end of last year, when a stray cheque made it order a full audit. Garston went into liquidation last month before the audit.

The cheques came from a Barclays Bank high interest account held by Traigrove, a Garston subsidiary. Garston held the rest of the investor's money in various accounts, and even illicitly bought shares in DRG, Regentcrest and Hanson warrants.

Garston was a tied agent of NFMC's and legally only allowed to sell NFMC's policies.

Since its liquidation last month, the Serious Fraud Office has discovered it had up to £20 million in unauthorized



"Our intention was not to be hostile": John Bairstow, chairman of Queens Moat, yesterday

Queens Moat declares offer for Norfolk final

By Matthew Bond

Queens Moat Houses, the commercial hotel group, will not be increasing its all-share bid for Norfolk Capital, a rival hotel group.

Mr John Bairstow, Queens Moat chairman, yesterday declared its offer final.

The Queens Moat share price moved immediately higher as the market showed relief that the company would not be making a higher offer, or offering a cash alternative.

Only if a third party bids for Norfolk will Queens Moat consider a higher bid.

The share price rose enabled

Benson Gregory, Queens Moat's stockbroker, to mount a raid on Norfolk shares. It snapped up 7.1 million before the Norfolk price recovered.

Queens Moat now owns 6.3

per cent. The market raid came exactly two weeks after launching its bid for Norfolk.

Explaining why he had not declared the bid final from the start, Mr Bairstow said he had hoped to reach an agreement with the Norfolk board and had deliberately avoided such a hostile opening gambit.

"Our intention was not to be hostile. But now it seems to me only right and proper that we should state our position and go final," said Mr Bairstow, who admitted his disappointment at the lack of response from the Norfolk board.

Explaining why he had not declared the bid final from the start, Mr Bairstow said he had hoped to reach an agreement with the Norfolk board and had deliberately avoided such a hostile opening gambit.

"Our intention was not to be hostile. But now it seems to me only right and proper that we should state our position and go final," said Mr Bairstow, who admitted his disappointment at the lack of response from the Norfolk board.

"Our view is that they were forced into this position by their share price falling."

When Queens Moat launched the bid it was worth £185 million. At yesterday's share price the 2-for-5 share swap profits not less than £62 million, up 47 per cent on

Property boost for Budgens

By Gillian Bowditch

TEMPUS

Budgens alone among the big boys

Budgens, the supermarket group run by Mr John Fletcher, is resigned to a life of solitude having failed in its courtship of the Gateway group in 1988, and been jilted by Scottish supermarket group Wm Low last year.

But, as yesterday's half-year figures show, going it alone is tough if you are a small food retailer with only 1 per cent of the British market especially when you are up against Sainsbury, Tesco and Safeway who have more than 30 per cent between them.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to November were up 82.7 per cent at £11.7 million, but pre-tax profits accounted for 28.99 million of that and profits from food retailing rose only 3.7 per cent to £7.56 million. Sales rose 9.6 per cent to £158 million and eps from 5.46p to 8.71p. The interim dividend is static at 2p.

Budgens is making the most of its solitary existence, concentrating in the South-east and repositioning and upgrading its stores. The new look Budgens is attractive but the redevelopment is expensive and gearing is about 50 per cent. The interest charge rose from £1.08 million to £1.37 million in the first half, after capitalizing £49,000.

Trading has become tougher in the second half. Mr Fletcher will not be drawn further than that. The £6.99 million came from the sale of five stores, four of which were bought by Marks and Spencer.

ICA ruling council backs public sector merger plan

By Graham Scarjeant, Financial Editor

The Institute of Chartered Accountants' ruling council has backed plans to allow chartered accountants to be trained outside professional offices for the first time and to merge with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipa), the smaller, specialized public sector accounting body.

Mr Philip Couse, ICA president, said the merger would give chartered accountants an entry into the public sector where they are poorly represented, and be a step forward in rationalizing the profession.

Members will vote on both proposals in June. A two-

GrandMet puts Alpo up for sale

Grand Metropolitan, the British drinks and foods group, is putting Alpo, its petfoods subsidiary which is sixth largest in the US, up for sale.

Alpo was acquired by GrandMet in 1980 as part of the purchase of Liggett, but does not fit into the group's international strategy.

GrandMet does not sell food in Britain, and the only way to expand its share in the US would be an expensive acquisition, GrandMet said.

Alpo sales are running at about \$400 million (£237 million) and profits before tax and interest amounted to around \$45 million in the year to end-September.

On a p/e ratio in the mid-20s, analysts expect Alpo to fetch between \$600 million and \$700 million.

Hong Kong bridge link

Hong Kong is to construct the longest suspension bridge in the world at a cost of HK\$6.5 billion (£490 million), its government announced yesterday.

The bridge, the largest-ever private undertaking in the colony, will link urban Hong Kong to the site of a new airport on Lantau Island. It will have a central span of 1,413 metres, 130 metres longer than the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

The project is part of Hong Kong's HK\$127 billion master plan to build a massive port and airport infrastructure by 2006. It is expected to be completed in 1996, a year before the opening of the Lantau airport and the historic handover of the colony to China.

The government will invite tenders to finance, design, construct and operate the bridge in September, and has already placed advertisements in overseas newspapers.

Schneider lifts stake

Schneider has increased its holding in Sema Group to 7.68 per cent by purchasing the entire 4.5 million share stake previously held by The Worldwide Software Group.

Mr Pierre Bonelli, Sema managing director, said the company considered Schneider to be a supportive long-term shareholder, and he called it a positive development.

Indeed there are those who believe M&S might like the whole group. But M&S is unlikely to pay the 154p offered by Wm Low before it pulled out of the agreed deal.

Budgens shares rose 3p to 97p putting them on a prospective p/e of 11 assuming full-year profits of £11.2 million (Goldman Sachs).

At the end of its reorganization, Budgens may be in the right place to cater for supermarket customers but it still has some way to go and trading could be difficult in the meantime. Mr Ron Brierley's IEP Securities has a 7 per cent stake and a bid is still a possibility. But the group is not likely to see the sort of premium Wm Low was offering and the shares are unlikely to outperform in the short term.

BOC

BOC's shares have been remarkably good performers in recent months. At one stage, they were up by a fifth since the preliminary results for 1988-89 were announced in November.

Even now, up 9p at 535p after the first-quarter figures, they are still a tenth better than they were in the closing months of last year.

There are several reasons for this recent enthusiasm for BOC. For a start, Mr Richard Giordano, BOC's chairman, has said that any recession in Europe or North America will



Resigned to a life of solitude in the supermarket field: John Fletcher of Budgens

not affect the company in the current year.

This confidence was backed by the promise of dividends totalling 19p, virtually maintaining the 15 per cent annual growth of the last five years.

The first-quarter figures did nothing to dispel the impression that BOC will make it through the current year unscathed. Pre-tax profits rose by 7 per cent to £81.5 million in the three months to December, leaving earnings per share 9 per cent ahead at 11.3p.

The geographical breakdown appears to indicate a strong showing in Europe —

with pre-tax profits up 29 per cent — and a lacklustre performance in the Far East, where they actually fell slightly.

However, this is quite misleading and arises because corporate expenses and currency hedging operations are charged to Europe. In fact, gases volume rose by 13 per cent in Japan, against just 3 per cent in Europe.

Analysts are keeping to their forecast of £365 million before tax and earnings of 53p this year, leaving the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 10.

BOC's consistent progress will be increasingly striking as other industrial companies

begin to report falling earnings and the shares remain attractive.

Strong & Fisher

Strong & Fisher must rue the day if first grappled with Pitard Gamar. Twice it has bid since 1986 and twice it was forced to face the Monopolies Commission.

By the time its plans were cleared last spring PG was over its earlier troubles. S&F, on the other hand, was running into trading problems of

its own, which eventually translated into a £2 million loss in the second half of last year. Worse, as it turned out, it had spent £16 million on a 27.4 per cent stake in PG.

Today that stake is worth only about £6.5 million, and has brought S&F to its knees.

Given that stocks are traditionally at the highest at this time of year, group trading

is in excess of £40 million, against net assets of £25 million last June.

Facing interest costs of about £7 million a year, the prospect of a £2 million write-down on its Gomshall plant, and possible provisions on sheepskin stocks, S&F does not expect to report a profit for the six months to end-December. It can hardly hope for one in the second half either.

S&F's bankers clearly want to see some disposals before they agree to any permanent new arrangement. Gomshall, however, has failed to attract a buyer so far, and the obvious move is to unload the PG shares. PG would be delighted to round up some friendly institutions to take up the stake, but at a discount to the market price, naturally.

A merger with PG begins to look a necessity rather than a preference for S&F. It may yet happen, if PG can see enough advantage in removing its biggest rival. If it does not, S&F shares, at 85p, have little to recommend them.

Medeva issue shortfall

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Mitsubishi confirms stake in Paternoster

Mitsubishi Estate Company, the Japanese property group, has confirmed it will join the consortium developing Paternoster Square in the City, as suggested in *The Times* yesterday.

Mitsubishi is to inject £15 million of equity into the £700 million project, matching the sums invested by the two other members of the consortium, Greycourt, a quoted developer whose shares rose 5p to 420p on the news, and Park Tower Realty, a private US company. An affiliate of Mitsubishi Estate is providing a loan to the partnership which secures the long-term finance for the site. Greycourt and Park Tower Realty acquired the site, next to St Paul's Cathedral, for £150 million last year, and a planning application will be submitted this summer. The plans are being drawn up by a team of classical architects.

Lloyds buys York chemist

Lloyd's Chemists has acquired an FW Wood pharmacy in York for £246,000, bringing the number of stores in its network to 496. The deal is being financed through the issuing of 27,728 new Lloyds shares to be placed by Pannier Gordon at 196p. The pharmacy made trading profits of £58,000 in the year to end-December 1989.

Medeva issue shortfall

Medeva's £27 million rights issue to finance the takeover of fellow drugs company Evans Healthcare has received 28.24 per cent acceptance. Underwriters, headed by Laing & Crickshank, will take up the balance of the 16-for-5 issue, at 100p. As a result of the issue Credit Lyonnais, the parent bank of Laing & Crickshank, will own 15.74 per cent of Medeva.

Mr Ian Gowrie Smith, managing director, said he was not too disappointed with the result of the issue because the underwriters had been counting on a shortfall, and his company is now 80 per cent owned by those intending to be long term shareholders.

Fall in beer production

Elbief hit by sales decline

Shares in Elbief, the Birmingham manufacturer of handbag and photographic frames, clocks and mirrors, fell by 13p to 33p, following a decline in sales. Pre-tax profits fell from £225,000 to £70,000 in the six months to end-October. On turnover advanced 70 per cent to £13.6 million, following expansion and technological investments. Earnings per share rose from 6.06p to 6.61p, while the interim dividend improved to 1.25p, against 1.25p last year.

GPT and Siemens link

GPT, the communications group 60 per cent owned by GEC, has announced a global product strategy for the development of business communications with Siemens of West Germany.

Work has already started on integrating the network features of GPT's best-selling ISDX digital exchange and Hitex, Siemens' flagship product. GPT said its co-operation with the German group mirrored the joint product strategy of Rohn and Siemens in the US, based on Rohn's system 9750. It considers that ISDX will be the cornerstone of the new strategy.

Birse rises 21% at half time

By Philip Pangalo

Pre-tax profits at Birse Group, the construction and civil engineering company which came to the market last September, increased 21 per cent to £5.23 million in the six months to end-October.

Turnover grew 16 per cent to £105.1 million, with construction advancing 20 per cent and accounting for £98.4 million of the total.

Earnings per share rose from 5.8p to 6.8p and there is an interim dividend of 0.25p.

Mr Peter Birse, chairman, said the building market has slowed in the South of England but is buoyant in the Midlands and North. Business available in civil engineering has increased.

The company has been more active in plant hire, which accounts for 25 per cent of profits. A depot has been commissioned in Aberdeen to serve the offshore industry in the North Sea.

Birse Homes made a small first-half loss and is "unlikely to return to profitability in the near future". Birse Communications, started a year ago, continued to incur losses in the first half, at about £200,000, although it is now trading profitably and should show a profit by next year.

Analysts expect full-year pre-tax profits of £13.5 million. The shares held at 130p.

Why poll day is a vote loser

Up to one million people will be caught by anomalies in poll tax, operative in seven weeks time. The courts may be able to help, but most cannot afford legal redress.

Find out why tenants, divorcees, married women, holiday cottage owners, pensioners and parents are concerned

THE TIMES ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR

about the new tax in Family Money tomorrow.

The seven pages of personal finance news and information will also look at the success or failure of green investments; the new crop of investment trusts; and the value of umbrella funds.

Top executives in Britain now the poorer men of Europe on pay

Inflation undermines the salaries of key players

By Colin Narbrough

For all the publicity about the City's mega-salaries, Britain's chief executives last year lost ground in the international pay league.

They fell four places to 15th where total salaries and bonuses are concerned, according to a survey by TPF & C, management consultancy arm of Towers Perrin.

Measured by purchasing power, chief executive officers with British companies slipped from ninth to

14th, while on a net pay basis, allowing for tax and other statutory deductions, they slumped to 13th from seventh. The best performance by British chief executive officers was in overall remuneration, including long-term incentives, such as share options, and other perks. Here they dropped from fourth to seventh position.

Mr John Carney, the vice president of TPF & C, said: "These figures are surprising given the high levels of base pay and bonuses

which we have witnessed recently." He said they clearly reflected the fall in the value of the pound over the last two years and an erosion of purchasing power caused by rising inflation in Britain. Previous TPF & C surveys have shown Britain's chief executive officers moving steadily up the international pay league of the top 20 countries.

The survey, 1989 Worldwide Total Remuneration Update, covers chief executives running companies with a turnover of £150 million.

Total remuneration for the average chief executive in Britain was £171,000 last year, placing him or her 47 per cent below opposite numbers in America — the leader in all categories. In America, total remuneration is £322,000.

If salary and bonuses are considered separately, the average chief executive officer in Britain earned only £106,000 last year. This meant that in Europe, only the Swedish chief executives were paid less. After-tax earnings for chief exec-

utives in Britain are £65,000, against £84,000 for their Swiss counterparts (the top Europeans), and £44,000 in America.

Ireland leads Europe in purchasing power terms, but its chief executives have less than half the purchasing muscle of their equivalents in America.

In Europe, the chief executive officers in Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden have lower purchasing power than their counterparts in Britain.

Directors reject chance of Really Useful stake

By Martin Waller

The three executive directors of Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group have rejected the chance to take an equity stake in the company once it is taken private and are in discussions with the company about their future with the group.

Mr John Whitney, former director general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, Miss Biddy Hayward, who runs the Palace Theatre, and Mr Keith Turner, are thought likely to remain with RUG in the end, however.

But as the plans for the buy-out progressed, they rejected an arrangement to buy 1 per cent of the successor company between them and earn up to another 5 per cent over a

period of years, depending on future profits.

No one at the buyout team was giving a reason last night for their change of heart, which occurred about a month ago. Mr Lloyd Webber this week announced a £230 offer for the rest of the company he does not own, revealing that he spoke for 52.5 per cent through his Newco vehicle.

The row over the apparent *faillite* he had handed the minority shareholders continued yesterday. Schroders, the merchant bank which brought RUG to the market, is using Wertheim, its 50 per cent-owned New York associate, to produce an independent valuation of the business and copyrights it controls and is not going to advise shareholders on what you feel about the price.

Mr Lloyd Webber is in a commanding position, however. The group's main income stream, accounting for more than 90 per cent of profits, is the performances of *Cats*, *Aspects of Love*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Starlight*

Express and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Under his contract, which expires in January 1993, Mr Lloyd Webber can forbid further performances of the works, turning off much of the profits at source. He can also have dissenting shareholders decide to stay in, block any future dividends.

The problem of valuing RUG was the main reason for the City's disenchantment with it. Firm profits forecasts are hard to come by, but for the current year the best bet is about £8 million plus pre-tax (£7.4 million). Earnings per share should show a minimal increase because the tax charge was kept low last year. The bid, therefore, offers a prospective exit multiple of just under 15 times.

Novalal joining the USM forest



Looking for growth: Richard Wallis, chief executive of Novalal, which specializes in cloning of hardwood trees, yesterday

Novalal, a start-up venture whose expertise is mass cloning of hardwood trees, is coming to the USM after a placing with City institutions of 5 million shares at 100p each to raise a net £4.61 million (Colin Campbell writes).

The company will use £200,000 of the proceeds to reimburse certain promoters for pre-formation expenses, £1.4 million for the acquisition and

equipping of premises in Haverhill, Suffolk, and £1.2 million in equipping premises at its Essex estate.

A further £400,000 may be spent in exercising an option over land, leaving the balance of £1.4 million for working capital requirements.

In addition to the mass production of trees, Novalal intends exploiting other life science technologies — including fine chemicals for the

brewing and pharmaceutical industries.

Since a number of vital medicines can be obtained from plant cells, Novalal hopes to use its expertise to produce such agents and thus save otherwise rare plants and trees from destruction.

In the first full year of trading to July 31, 1991, the company expects pre-tax profits of £2.85 million on a turnover of £4.66 million. At

the placing price, this would translate into a prospective price earnings ratio of 9.7 times.

Initially, the board proposes retaining profits for use as working capital.

Mr Richard Wallis, chief executive, says Novalal will initially concentrate its activities in Britain though may set up additional propagation units in other countries closer to the eventual site of planting.

Ferranti has hoped to own the majority stake in a sonar joint venture but Ferranti refused to negotiate on that basis. The joint venture, based in Cheadle Heath, near Manchester, will be mostly separate from Thomson's defence sonar operation, Sintra.

Analysis said the price paid, which represented 21 times historic earnings, was a good deal for Ferranti.

The company started selling assets after discovering a £215 "hole" in its assets, allegedly caused by fraudulent defence contracts.

A spokesman for Ferranti said the business needed the support of a big partner to provide the industrial strength to keep winning contracts.

Ferranti won a £20 million order last week to supply 10 sonar systems to the Royal Navy. After the joint venture is completed, just under 50 per cent of Ferranti's sales will come from defence.

Ferranti Computer Systems will primarily be a civil business, specializing in software integration.

Ferranti Industrial Electronics contains the communications businesses, including Zonephone.

Ferranti decided this week to scrap a £187 million rights issue after the signing of the GEC contract. However, it has arranged a £62.38 million standby facility in case insufficient asset sales are made by the end of March.

BOC 'on target' with 7% increase to £81.5m

BOC, the industrial gases and health care group, produced a 7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £81.5 million in the three months to December on sales 16 per cent up at £596 million. A slight fall in the tax charge meant fully diluted earnings per share were 9 pence higher at 11.3p.

Mr Richard Giordano, chairman and chief executive, said this result was in line with expectations for the quarter and consistent with BOC's plans for the year as a whole.

Coloroll sells Drew to management for £16m

Coloroll, the troubled home furnishings group, has sold Alexander Drew to its management in a £16.5 million buyout. Coloroll, which is only 3 per cent in Europe, the rise was 13 per cent in Japan and 14 per cent in Taiwan.

In health care, operating profits were 7 per cent up on £20.2 million. BOC said this increase was modest, but it was confident profits would improve further over the rest of the year.

Temps, page 22

Coloroll, the troubled home furnishings group, has sold Alexander Drew to its management in a £16.5 million buyout. Coloroll, which is only 3 per cent in Europe, the rise was 13 per cent in Japan and 14 per cent in Taiwan.

Alexander Drew, based in Rochdale, converts grey cloth into printed furnishing fabrics. The business has been managed as an autonomous division within Coloroll and made profits of £2.47 million for March 1989. It has

assets of around £5.1 million. The buyout is made up of £14.9 million in cash and £1.6 million of finance leases. Morgan Grenfell Development Capital arranged the deal.

Coloroll plans to raise about £80 million in its refinancing.

Contrary to speculation, Mr John Ashcroft is expected to take a firmer grip on the reins and remain chief executive.

Coloroll is expected to raise more money by selling off other divisions in the next few weeks.

'Pocket money' for Spaniard

Nigel Howe, popularly known in the stock market as "The Spaniard," and made redundant from his job as a general equity salesman at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, has turned his back on several near-six figure job offers and accepted a salary of £30,000 a year — pocket money by recent City standards — to work for Peel Hunt. It means that Howe will be reunited with old Estonian Charlie Peel, who founded the small agency firm last year. "He worked for me at Fieldings, in his pre-CSV days," says Peel, who was once the managing partner at the broker Fieldings Newson Smith. Of Howe's lowly salary, Peel reveals that it is company policy to pay everyone a flat rate of £30,000 — "including me," he says — plus BUPA and a profits-related bonus, according to seniority. "Half our profits go into a pool to be divided among staff and the other half goes to our shareholders," says Peel. The ex-Fieldings duo will be turned into a trio in April when Chris Hartley, who retired from the City to live in Wyoming, in the US, makes his come back by joining Peel Hunt. "It will bring us up to 13 in total," says Peel. "We are expanding but I doubt we'll be more than 15 or 16 by the end of this year."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

It's chairman Twiggy

Larger than life Terry "Twiggy" Buckland, head trader at Phillips & Drew Fund Management, is clearly never going to live down his last luncheon at Warburg Securities. As revealed in the *City Diary*, the lanky 6ft 7ins, 16½stones ("Or 17 and a bit," he grudgingly admits) stockbroker sat on a valuable antique chair in the private dining room there last month, and broke it. Invited by foolhardy Warburg men once again yesterday, he turned up with a seat of his own under his arm — a shooting stick. "I thought they might have only put out nine seats for 10 guests," he tells me. "But they double-bluffed me — they had 16 chairs instead and told me to take my pick."

roads, cars cannot hope to clock up more than 11 mph and the authorities are contemplating the importation of double-decker buses from London...

Fools gold

In contrast to all the usual financial waffle that such company reports often contain, there is a simple, if not brutal, item in the most recent set of accounts from Falcon Mines, the Zimbabwean gold miner. In just four lines the accounts reveal how the company distributed its wealth. "To employees £58.36 million to Government £370,000; to lenders of capital £505,000; to shareholders — nil."

Banking is full of surprises. Barclays found that the business personality most favoured in a survey of 20,000 teenage account-holders was Robert Maxwell.

Ideals up a gum tree

Novalal, the tree-cloning group, is coming to the USM with its principles up a gum tree — to use an expression. For its fine glossy placing document is not, tree lovers will be horrified to learn, on recycled paper. "Sorry about that," says chief executive Richard Wallis. "We had trouble with the printers, and we couldn't get the recycled paper in time."

He then hastily added, "Our stationery will, however, use recycled paper." Meanwhile Tim Steer, smaller companies analyst at James Capel, and one of the team which has just published the firm's second *Green Book* — a guide to the 30 companies most likely to benefit from changes in environmental legislation — reveals that the publication is at the forefront of green trends. "We checked with the printer to make sure that it was being printed on recycled paper and were told that it was only 30 per cent recycled paper — and 70 per cent recycled furniture. But unfortunately their supplier ran out before our turn came and we ended up with 100 per cent recycled paper after all." Perhaps this might help solve Lowndes Queensway's problems.

• Sign of the times... On a notice board for use by its customers, in the Safeway supermarket in Pickering, North Yorkshire, one postcard reads: "For sale: Outline of the history of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. Offers. Genuine reason for sale."

Carol Leonard

Ferranti sells half of sonar business

By Angela Mackay

Ferranti International, the defence and electronics company, has continued its programme of asset disposals by announcing the sale of half of its sonar systems business to Thomson-CSF, the French group, for £32 million.

The problem of valuing RUG was the main reason for the City's disenchantment with it. Firm profits forecasts are hard to come by, but for the current year the best bet is about £8 million plus pre-tax (£7.4 million). Earnings per share should show a minimal increase because the tax charge was kept low last year. The bid, therefore, offers a prospective exit multiple of just under 15 times.

The sonar business, with annual sales of £40 million, will be hived off from the computer systems division and jointly managed. However, a new chief executive will be drawn from Ferranti.

Ferranti had been interested in purchasing Ferranti defence systems but GEC's "knockout" offer of £310 million forced the French to examine the rest of the Ferranti group more closely.

Ferranti had hoped to own the majority stake in a sonar joint venture but Ferranti refused to negotiate on that basis. The joint venture, based in Cheadle Heath, near Manchester, will be mostly separate from Thomson's defence sonar operation, Sintra.

Analysis said the price paid, which represented 21 times historic earnings, was a good deal for Ferranti.

The company started selling assets after discovering a £215 "hole" in its assets, allegedly caused by fraudulent defence contracts.

A spokesman for Ferranti said the business needed the support of a big partner to provide the industrial strength to keep winning contracts.

Ferranti won a £20 million order last week to supply 10 sonar systems to the Royal Navy. After the joint venture is completed, just under 50 per cent of Ferranti's sales will come from defence.

Ferranti Computer Systems will primarily be a civil business, specializing in software integration.

Ferranti Industrial Electronics contains the communications businesses, including Zonephone.

Ferranti decided this week to scrap a £187 million rights issue after the signing of the GEC contract. However, it has arranged a £62.38 million standby facility in case insufficient asset sales are made by the end of March.

COMMENT

Tide may have turned for British Telecom

The habit of lambasting British Telecom dies hard. Leading investment managers are as well aware as politicians and the rest of the public of its long-standing shortcomings in the public and private sectors. But the image is gradually changing — through genuine performance as well as clever advertising — and international investors are dragging their City brethren into taking a new look at a strong, if unloved, group.

Some of this rethink is due to the fall from grace of the fair weather, high-growth companies as the economy turns sour. A general business recession would certainly hit BT's domestic business, but the damage would be relatively slight. Underlying volume growth in the core business has been running at 9 per cent during the past 12 months and may drop only a point in 1990. There are also signs that, after making good earlier performance disasters, BT may be able to contain costs sufficiently to live within its price régime and convert volume growth into earnings.

After stripping out the pension contributions holiday, staff costs rose about 8 per cent in the third quarter against 10 per cent for the first nine months as a whole and the ragbag of "other" operating costs is also coming under control. This is admittedly somewhat easier in times of relatively high inflation but the trend is encouraging.

Old Lady still in the dark

Although it only gives the Government a "modest" mark for progress on fighting inflation, the Old Lady's autumn term report does acknowledge that a 15 per cent base rate has had the desired effect on the once-wayward consumer, subduing household expenditure nicely, especially in the housing-related sectors. But not everyone, it seems, is as ready to learn. Either that, or the numbers are failing to tell the true story.

In its latest *Quarterly Bulletin*, the Bank of England reveals that it is still somewhat in the dark as to the pattern of corporate spending. After a prolonged dose of the Chancellor's high-interest rate medicine, investment would appear to have slowed, while there seems to have been a substantial accumulation of stocks since mid-1988. Part of this may be run down this year, depressing demand still further. But Threadneedle Street is not alarmed, believing inflation poses more of a threat than recession.

Anyway, there is a substantial school of thought which thinks the "de-stocking avalanche" scenario is a thing of the past in a British corporate sector much leaner and meaner than it used to be. Indeed, the survey notes it is "not obvious" that stockbuilding has occurred on the scale suggested by recorded figures. But wisely the Bank suggests that any "involuntary" accumulation due to the economy slowing, is likely to be unwound in the next few quarters.

Understandably, capital expenditure is not expected to grow as strongly as last year, but fierce cuts, such as those seen in 1980, are considered unlikely, despite the company sector's £6.5 billion financial deficit. Long-term big spenders — Eurotunnel, the water and power industries — should provide the necessary underpinning to prevent any serious collapse.

For all the surging financial deficit, profitability remained high last year.

Profits fell modestly in the third quarter, but the Bank observes that it was still high by historical standards.

Dividends have shown strong overall growth, if somewhat erratic. The Bank sees the strong third quarter reflecting underlying profitability, or, in part, defensive moves in a period of exceptionally high takeover activity, which boosted corporate borrowing to about £14 billion. With the takeover heat off last quarter, the picture might have become clearer.

"I have been lucky enough to drive most of the world's fastest sports cars, and none of them have the same overall balance of speed, comfort and refinement that this new 300ZX exhibits" Ian Kuah, World Sports Cars

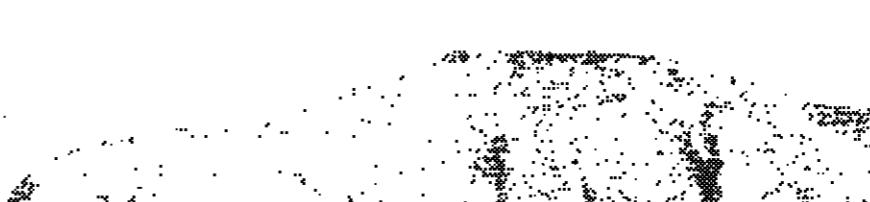
The new 300ZX will arrive in the UK this spring.

It has been described by leading motoring journalists as one of the world's finest sports cars.

The 300ZX will be on display at special all-day previews around the country, starting with the venues listed below.

Viewing can take place up to 9.30 p.m.

We invite you to examine the new thoroughbred that will set the standards for supercars in the nineties.



10th/11th February

LONDON CENTRAL

AFG CAMDEN

85 Camden Road

Tel: 01-481 6667

12th/13th February

LONDON NORTH WEST

AFG COLINDALE

The Hyde, Edgware Road

Tel: 01-200 9555

16th/17th February

LAST year, companies from the European

Community spent over £2.5 billion buying up their British counterparts.

THIS year they can be expected to spend at least the same again.

THE truth is, 1992 actually began in 1985, when the European heads of government agreed to the programme which would lead to a Single Market.

SINCE then, stories of major European investment have been a regular feature of our business pages.

of a French manufacturer of industrial water purifiers.

NOT for him the sophistication of a computerised targeting of his market.

NOT for him a franchising arrangement, a distribution deal or a merger.

HE just got on a plane, his briefcase bulging with brochures.

HE flew to England, hailed a taxi and asked the driver to take him to any water-using business he could think of.

THE Frenchman is now doing buoyant

IF THE SINGLE MARKET DOESN'T HAPPEN UNTIL 1992, HAS YOUR COMPETITION PULLED A FAST ONE?

A FRENCH company buys a large stake in two British companies which, together, undertake 11% of all our funerals.

A SPANISH company wins the contract to run the refuse service in Brighton.

A GERMAN company launches its supermarket concept in the UK, selling food straight from the packing cartons.

INDEED, all kinds of British businesses in areas as different as insurance from tomato ketchup, are now being shaken up by new European owners.

(Of course, our sharpest brains are giving many companies the same treatment over there.)

BUT the threat, or rather the opportunity, is perhaps best described by the recent story

A FAST ONE?

business here in Britain.

AT the expense, of course, of local suppliers.

(Perhaps they were still waiting for 1992 to come along?)

CLEARLY there is no time to lose. You have to pull out all the stops now.

STOP and think where you should be going in the new business environment.

STOP and talk to your accountant, bank manager or your solicitor.

STOP by your Trade Association, Chamber of Commerce or your local business club. (Have you joined one?)

EACH may have invaluable advice. And if you don't know where to start, please ring the DTI Hotline on 01-200 1992, or your local DTI office.


THEY can direct you to expert advice and provide you with news of the latest developments from their Single Market information service.

THE most important development is that you're now part of the largest free market in the world.

SET up your stall.



THE SINGLE MARKET IS HERE NOW. WHERE ARE YOU?

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

THE GROCERY MARKET

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Battle of the supergiants

Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, remarked not long ago: "I have always said there is room for only three majors in the industry. The next five years will knock two out of this game."

It is turning out to be a prophetic observation from the man who just over a decade ago managed, by one vote, to get the Tesco board's agreement to move away from its "pile it high, sell it cheap" beginnings and start to out-Sainsbury Lord Sainsbury's previously unassailable empire, leader of the pack in Britain's £40 billion grocery trade.

At the end of last year not much separated the two leading contenders. Mintel, specialist researchers, estimated that of all food sales Sainsbury accounted for an 11.9 per cent market share while Tesco held 11.5 per cent. The Mintel league table then listed Gateway at number three with 9 per cent, Leeds-based Asda at 6.1 per cent, Argyl's Safeway at 5 per cent and Marks & Spencer at 4.6 per cent.

But already Asda is stepping ahead of Gateway and more changes are coming. Two years ago, Argyl bought the British Safeway stores from its United States parent and now has more than 300 Safeway outlets, partly through a programme of new store development, but also by converting some bigger Presto outlets to the Safeway format. The Presto fascia stays on some stores and Argyl's discount chain, Lo-Cost, remains a separate operation.

Argyl chairman and chief executive Alastair Grant estimates that the Safeway acquisition has transformed Argyl from a grocery chain a third the size of Sainsbury and Tesco into one two-thirds their size. Argyl has also forged links with Ahold of Holland and Casino of France and the imminent single European market looks likely to bring more such developments within the trade.

Kwik Save, the discount chain with special strength in the north of England, accounts for 2.2 per cent of the grocery market, according to Mintel. Waitrose, the John Lewis Partnership chain which has always been adventurous

In the tough world of food retailing, big is not just beautiful, it is the best way to stay in business.

Derek Harris
looks at some of
the major players

M & S, trading on its quality image, has been so successful in selling food that it is now setting up outlets which are primarily food orientated with clothing and other traditional M & S goods as adjuncts rather than the other way round as in the main body of its stores.

Battle could be joined with M & S jostling into the mainstream of grocery multiples with a positioning towards the up-market end of the spectrum.

M & S was late in moving out of city and town centres, but the first of several edge-of-town ventures planned with Tesco is open in Hertfordshire, a few miles from the Tesco headquarters at Cheshunt. Tesco has a supermarket there while the M & S store includes a substantial 17,000 sq ft of food

retail space.

A new M & S development in Glasgow will put a 25,000 sq ft food store alongside an existing Asda supermarket. Tesco remains the biggest operator of supermarkets with 160 such outlets and has started a £1 billion, three-year building programme which should add another 60 such stores.

Asda, once it has converted the Gateway stores and with its own programme of development bringing more Asda supermarkets into operation, should pass the 200 mark by 1991.

Sainsbury has 116 supermarkets, taking the usual benchmark of a store of 25,000 sq ft or more of selling space. But it has some stores just below the benchmark which have many of the hallmarks of the supermarket because Sainsbury, like Safeway, carries comparatively little in the way of non-food lines. Sainsbury is opening more than 20 superstores a year, the main thrust being north and west from its heartland of the South East. Its most northerly store, just opened, is in Whitley Bay on the North East coast.

Clearly competition will continue to mount in the grocery trade, with more emphasis currently on price, which will make it tougher to keep up profit margins. It means the MacLaurin forecast is more likely to come true.

Safeway is expected to step ahead of Gateway as more of the Presto stores are converted to the Safeway format. At the same time,



One of Safeway's pilot carrier bag banks tapping the contents of people's pantries: if trials are successful, the idea will be extended nationwide

Green grow the grocers

Recycling plastic carrier bags is the latest project to help protect the environment

For the past couple of weeks, customers at five selected Safeway stores have had a new facility on offer: carrier bag banks. Realizing that most shoppers have a small, but growing, mountain of plastic carriers in their pantries (many trophies of previous supermarket visits), the company has launched a trial scheme to collect and recycle the bags. If the trial is successful, the banks will be installed nationwide.

The project is just one of dozens of "green schemes" being run by the supermarket chains. All the big retailers — Asda, the Co-op, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury, Safeway — are vying for "green" points. Most have a senior manager or director responsible for green issues and there is intense competition to top the league table in *The Green Consumer's Supermarket Shopping Guide*, John Elkington and Julia Hall's follow-up to their best-selling *The Green Consumer Guide* (Collins, £4.99 each). Safeway and Tesco head the list with five stars apiece.

Tony Comber, Safeway's director for environment, who insists that his company was green long before it became fashionable (it started recycling its cardboard and giving away "free-saver" brown recycled paper bags as long ago as 1971), says its commitment to the environment is genuine. "Our buyers don't have a job description which says 'Save the world — and try to make a profit at the same time', but we do encourage them, for example, to keep in touch with Friends of the Earth and pressure organizations," he says.

The supermarkets' green initiatives fall into these categories:

● Products. A list of environmentally benign products, many of them own-label, produced under the supermarket's own name, is available. In some shops, complete ranges of goods have green images.

● Customers. The earliest attempts at helping customers to recycle waste were things like bottle banks for the relatively easily-recycled glass bottles.

Helping customers recycle plastic containers has been more difficult because of the variety of plastics used in retailing. But Tesco and Sainsbury have joined forces to set up a trial collection scheme in the North-West for mixed plastics.

Under the scheme, EVC, a joint venture company belonging to ICI and the Italian company Enimont, will evaluate the type and volume of plastics collected so it can assess the type of equipment needed to start commercial recycling.

● Stores. Retailers are trying to make stores and distribution centres more environment-friendly. There is a move, for example, away from the use of CFC gases, which damage the ozone layer, in refrigeration. Safeway is using ammonia gas coolants at its new Scotstoun distribution centre in Strathclyde and plans environmental-friendly refrigeration in all new stores.

Organizations such as Friends,

of the Earth welcome the initiatives taken by the supermarkets, but do not go overboard in their praise. Pippa Hyam, recycling information officer for Friends of the Earth, says that none of these has yet been nearly radical enough.

"Though there are lots of good initiatives, there's nothing so dramatic that any one supermarket chain stands out from the others," she says.

Environmentalists would take the supermarkets' moves seriously if, for example, they sold all their fruit and vegetables in recycled paper bags instead of polystyrene trays and plastic wrapping, or if they reverted to the old-fashioned refill and deposit system on bottles for their own-brand drinks.

Hyam adds: "Of course, they'd have to alter their distribution system by introducing localized filling depots because returning empty bottles to one centralized point over great distances is clearly uneconomical. But it would enormously cut down the amount of waste that's produced from drinks packaging."

Malcolm Brown

Despite low earnings, manufacturers attract high prices from bidders

Fancy prices are paid in food manufacturing, not so much for the goods on the supermarket shelves as for the companies that produce them.

There have been more than 400 takeovers in western Europe in this sector in the past two years, including Nestlé's £2.5 billion hard-fought acquisition of Rowntree, the chocolate maker.

Bidders have been prepared to pay far more than the stock market valuation of their prey — 20 or even 30 times annual earnings in a sector where shares generally trade at around 10 times earnings — despite the food manufacturing sector's comparatively poor performance.

Though food is reasonably recession-proof (we all have to eat), a survey of the past decade by analysts at County Narwest Woodmac indicates that food manufacturing was near the bottom when it came to earnings growth, only 8 per cent a year on average. Supermarkets managed twice that.

Yet food manufacturers are ripe for takeovers and mergers as the single European market approaches. The industry is still remarkably fragmented in the European Community, as 80 per cent of food is processed in the country where it is consumed.

Only a third of the mergers in Europe during the past two years have involved a company being taken over by a foreign company, and only half of Europe's top 50 food manufacturers have a presence in more than two countries.

In Britain, the dam could burst soon. Since Rowntree lost its independence, a big bid for a British company has been awaited for 18 months. Two big names have kept their independence against expectations. Rank Hovis McDougall has Sir James Goldsmith sitting on a 29.9 per cent stake, a handy platform for a bid. Cadbury Schweppes, which spent £700 million on acquisitions in 1989, sits uncomfortably with General Cinema as a 17.4 per cent shareholder.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd sees several factors pointing to the disappearance of independent UK food manufacturers.

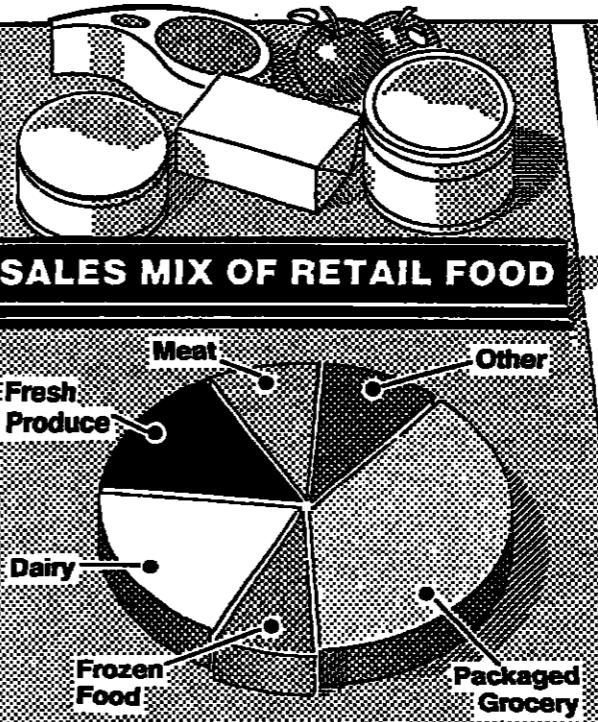
WORLD'S LEADING FOOD MAKERS

Company	Sales (\$bn)
1 Nestlé	24.0
2 Philip Morris	22.5
3 Belvoir	16.0
4 R.J. Rebbecos	9.8
5 Archer Daniels	7.9
6 Sara Lee	7.3
7 Danone	7.1
8 Grand Met/Pillsbury	5.8
9 Heinz	5.8
10 BSN	4.6

Statistics refer to 1989

Source: County Narwest Woodmac

Time is ripe for takeover of food makers



These include the need to consolidate to stand up to the big retailers, making savings from combining buying, production and marketing operations and vulnerability to hostile bids in the approach to

If the food sector really is coming out of the trough, now would be a good time for a predator to move, while share prices are depressed but with a profits recovery to come. However, bids may not come from the expected quarters.

Stakeholders carrying high interest costs on their purchases are finding it hard to raise finance for full bids in times when leveraged share buying has fallen into disrepute.

Despite problems in 1989, such as weather extremes, high raw material costs and health scares, food manufacturers are optimistic. County NarWest Woodmac, in a report on the sector published this month, points out that the lowest growth in earnings was in the first half of the 1980s, at 3 per cent a year, while the second half of the decade saw levels as high as 15 per cent.

County sees growth in earnings of 9 per cent this year and 11 per cent in 1991, reflecting the benefits of past investment programmes, overseas earnings and acquisitions.

"The sector entered the 1980s as a fragmented, inefficient, largely domestically based industry, struggling to come to terms with the growing power of the major food retailers," County says. "It was imperative that the manufacturers improved their work practices if they were to make an adequate return."

Computerized warehousing and distribution, already widespread on a national basis, can be used internationally. Products with the best chance of crossing international boundaries will be those with high added value, such as top quality convenience foods.

County believes that margins will continue to improve over the next two years, reaching 7.9 per cent in 1991, compared with 4.6 per cent in 1980 and an estimated 7.2 per cent last year.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd warns on whether the low profits of 1989 prove to be a blip. Although it expresses a lack of confidence in this hope, BZW admits: "It is possible to argue that the troubles of 1989 were exceptional and that 1990 should see a bounce back in domestic food earnings. We are inclined to the view that food demand is not going to slip dramatically in 1990. Nor, given the continued trends for women to work, do we expect households to be smaller and formal eating to decline... However, it seems reasonable to conclude that, to some extent at least, the squeeze on disposable incomes has contributed to the disappointing food results in 1989."

Pointing to rising disposable incomes, County NarWest Woodmac says: "While much of this increase has been spent on larger items such as electrical goods, the consumer is now more willing to pay for a food item, especially if it allows more time for work or leisure activities."

Indirectly, the concentration of food retailing among giants such as Sainsbury and Tesco has forced the pace of change in the manufacturing sector. County says: "Being at the sharp end of consumer spending, retailers were the first to identify the trends towards better quality and convenience, away from purchases made purely on price."

The challenge for the 1990s will be developing pan-European operations. There are only a few players now, notably Unilever of Britain and Netherlands, BSN of France and Nestlé of Switzerland.

The argument for consolidation in food manufacturing is that taste barriers, as well as trade barriers, are falling. Increased overseas travel and the spread of the deep freeze and the microwave are important factors. So, too, will be the dismantling of customs formalities and improvement in continental railway systems to speed distribution.

Computerized warehousing and distribution, already widespread on a national basis, can be used internationally. Products with the best chance of crossing international boundaries will be those with high added value, such as top quality convenience foods.

Rodney Hobson



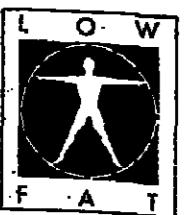
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FOOD INDUSTRY STRUCTURE IN THE MAIN EUROPEAN MARKETS

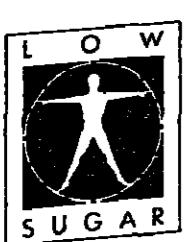
Country	Total industry output (\$bn)	Total no. of companies	Industry concentration (%)
Italy	57.3	40,000	15
France	57.0	4,018	62
UK	65.4	5,419	52
West Germany	84.0	4,269	25
Spain	38.2	2,606	25

* Percentage of industry controlled by the 50 largest companies

Source: CMA



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In the front line against bacteria

Food producers keep up their guard against the causes and dangers of contamination, Anthony Cox writes

Once it was *bacillus* *botulinus* knocking a hefty dent in the tinned salmon trade; now it is "mad cow disease" that is leading to bans on British cattle intestines as haggis casings. In between botulism and bovine spongiform encephalopathy came the salmonella and listeria food scares.

Bacteria are everywhere and, with more than 40,000 reported cases a year, food poisoning remains one of nature's constants.

"Salmonella is something that local authorities were dealing with long before it was fashionable to talk about it," says Evan Stirzaker, an environmental health officer for Ashford council in Kent.

Nevertheless, media attention and mounting consumer concern have put the maintenance of public confidence in the safety of their products at the top of the agenda for Britain's grocers. A year ago, in the wake of the salmonella crisis, six leading supermarket chains — Gateway, Sainsbury, Tesco, Safeway, Asda and Morrisons, a north of England company — set up the Food Safety Advisory Centre to provide information for worried consumers. The centre subsequently made £500,000

available for a three-year programme of research into the cause of food poisoning.

Gateway, like other leading multiples, maintains a quality-assurance department to check on the quality of the food it sells.

"With our own products, the responsibility for testing falls on us, but with branded products we insist on it being carried out by the manufacturers, although, increasingly, our own people are visiting manufacturers," says Debbie Young, of Gateway press relations, whose supermarkets turn over more than £70 million a week.

"The quality-assurance staff are responsible for what goes into Gateway-branded products. They visit factories and make sure that hygiene standards are being applied.

"We stock a huge range of brands and have not the resources to check every single product, so we ask manufacturers to supply certificates. For example, with soft cheeses, we demand from each manufacturer a guarantee that each batch is free from listeria.

We also look at our stores to see that they are hygienic, that our staff are trained and that foodstuffs are looked after."

The Co-operative movement, Britain's largest retailer,



Shepherd's delight? Nigel Pittcock, a scientific food control officer for Ashford council's environmental health team, checks a pie being prepared in a kitchen echoes this account of the steps manufacturers and retailers are taking to ensure high standards of food safety.

"The Co-op is different from other groups in that it has food-safety responsibilities right through the entire food chain. We are farmers, manufacturers and retailers — and the people who consume our food are also our members," says Martin Henderson, press spokesman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the movement's main supplier. The Co-op's farmers consult advisory groups on limiting the use of pesticides and chemicals and the CWS's Manchester-based technical group of food scientists is responsible for quality assurance in its own factories and

those of its suppliers. "We send our technical people to every factory we use, or may be considering using, to ensure everything is up to scratch and our specifications are met," Henderson says. "We would de-list any factory that did not meet our standards. Our specifications also include environmental considerations. We do not want goods from factories that pollute the atmosphere."

Local authority environmental health officers responsible for tackling problems of food safety would like to see changes in the law.

"We're looking for the Government to strengthen powers in the Food Protection Bill in terms of controls at the sharp end — the food premises," says

and medical awareness of food poisoning have led to a national increase in reported incidents. "Nevertheless, in five years we have not had an outbreak of food poisoning at Ashford — just a few linked cases and a number of isolated ones."

Last year, Britain's groceries faced a different kind of threat to the safety of the products on their shelves. Food poisoning was joined by "consumer terrorism", in which blackmailers threatened to spike foodstuffs unless ransom demands were met. One blackmailer demanded £1.5 million from two companies.

In the House of Commons, John Patten, the Home Office minister, said the food manufacturing industry had "an excellent health, safety and hygiene record over many years".

Gateway's Debbie Young says: "To try to overcome the problem of people tampering with products, we have obvious security — in-store cameras, vigilant staff and constant checking, for example — to deter people. It is difficult, because we don't want supermarkets where everything is behind bars. Packaging is a matter for manufacturers, but we have an opinion on products. We are moving more and more to tamper-evident packaging in areas where it can be done simply and cheaply — a paper strip across the top of a pot of jam, for example."



Reeves-Smith: "a spiteful act"

Government rule that hits the trade's charity

Leonard Reeves-Smith is a disillusioned Tory. The director of the National Grocers' Benevolent Fund, a charity which helps out former grocery trade employees who have fallen on hard times, he is angry at a decision which will take money needlessly from "hard-up old people" (Malcolm Brown writes).

The target of his anger is the Department of Social Security, which last year said it would disallow the summer and Christmas bonuses paid out by many charities. The department said this type of regular payment would be

classed as income, and an equivalent amount deducted from the pensioner's benefit.

The fund, which pays £5 a week to its beneficiaries (any greater amount would be deducted penny for penny from state benefits), had been paying bonuses worth £85 a year to a single person and £120 to a married couple. This has been halted because of the department's ruling.

"I think it's a particularly mean and spiteful act," Reeves-Smith says. "If it saved the Government money I could see the point, but it does not."

The fund's beneficiaries are unable to stand up for themselves on the issue: 98 per cent of the pensioners are over 70, and until her death earlier this year, the oldest beneficiary was a 102-year-old widow.

Established in 1964, the fund, grew out of three much older organizations: the London Grocers' and Tea Dealers' Benevolent Society, formed in 1837 to help independent grocers in the London area; the Grocers' Federation Benevolent Fund (1897), which aided independent grocers on a national basis, and the Grocery

Employees' National Benevolent Society (1908). The two "employer" charities prospered, but the "employee" charity lacked money. It made sense, Reeves-Smith says, to combine forces and provide a service for the whole trade, including food manufacturers and wholesalers.

The fund now has about 1,100 beneficiaries, some of them married; the number of people helped is about 1,400. Last year the fund paid out almost £400,000. To be eligible for assistance, a potential beneficiary must have worked in

the trade for at least 15 years and be in financial need. This usually means they are on income support grants.

"We have a gentle form of means test," Reeves-Smith says. "Applicants fill in a form with their outgoings and their income, which is either just the state pension or the state pension and occupational pension. If outgoings are higher than income, they're eligible."

One group of beneficiaries — people in nursing homes — gets significantly more than the basic £5. Ironically, considering its action on the bonuses, the department has a different attitude to financial support for these people. The fund pays them up to £30 a week without a word from the department, which probably would have to bear the extra costs itself if the charity did not pick up the tab.

Reeves-Smith will begin a recruiting drive for new pensioners soon. He hopes to enlist at least another 200 this year. He is concentrating on the North-East and is hoping to make several local radio broadcasts.

Own-brand comes of age



The name you notice: the George Range, the label from George and Liz Davies, sells competitively priced clothing for Asda

Name brands are still selling well, yet big outlets are expanding sales of their own label products

increase its own-brand share of sales from 35 per cent to 42 per cent.

Asda, an early exponent of supermarket-style shopping, once relied entirely on branded goods, despite other chains moving more strongly into own brands. A key appeal of own brands for retailers is that they get a better profit margin on them. There is much less of an advertising cost element and the bigger chains also have hefty financial muscle to strike advantageous deals with suppliers. Now Asda has well over 3,000 own-brand grocery lines, accounting for about 40 per cent of the chain's range of goods. Asda was able to follow a national-brands-only policy longer because it had a larger non-food element in its stores, a sector with higher margins than food.

Asda's latest move to strengthen its brand appeal has been to create an exclusive label by commissioning a com-

plete clothing range from George Davies and his wife Liz to be known as the George Range. It will be the couple's first business venture since leaving the Next chain in December 1988. The brief has been to produce good quality clothes at prices which undercut key competitors. Men's suits will for instance be priced at less than £99 and men's shirts start at £7.99.

The retail co-operative societies — numbering about 80, all run independently — sell a wide range of goods under the Co-op label. Behind that branding drive has been the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), which is primarily manufacturer and wholesale supplier to the retail societies, although it now has substantial retail interests of its own. The co-ops as a whole spend the most of any group on advertising its own brand.

Gateway has taken the route to in-house branding by

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Only board had power to pay £5.2m

Guinness plc v Saunders and Another

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths and Lord Goff of Chelmsford February 8

A committee of the board of directors of Guinness had had no power under the company's articles of association to grant special remuneration amounting to £5.2 million to the second defendant, Mr Thomas Joseph Ward, for his services in connection with the takeover of the Distillers Co plc. There was no basis on which Mr Ward was entitled to receive the money paid to him and accordingly he had to repay it.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Mr Ward by leave of the House from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Gidwell and Sir Frederick Lawton) (7/8 Times May 12, 1988; [1988] 1 WLR 863) affirming Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, (*The Times* July 22, 1987) who, on Guinness's application, had ordered repayment.

Mr Jonathan Crow for Mr Ward; Mr David Oliver, QC; Mr Richard Field, QC and Mr Philip Sales for Guinness.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that a meeting of Guinness's board of directors on January 19, 1986, had resolved that an offer be made for the issued share capital of Distillers and that three directors should be appointed a committee of the board with full power and authority to settle the terms of the offer, approve any revisions of it and do all things that it might consider necessary in connection with it.

The first defendant, Mr Ernest Walter Saunders, a Mr Ross and Mr Ward had constituted themselves a committee under the resolution. Guinness had subsequently acquired all the share capital of Distillers.

An agreement was said to have been entered into by the committee on behalf of Guinness and Mr Ward on his own behalf for payment to Mr Ward, in consideration of his "providing advice and services".

Commencement dates of recent legislation

Hipkins v Fosses

When presenting cases at first instance or in appellate courts, counsel had a positive duty to inform the court of all relevant commencement dates of recent legislation.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Potts) so stated on February 5, when allowing in part the appeal of Christopher Paul Isaacs and reducing to a total of two years imprisonment the total sentence of two and a half years imprisonment imposed on Feb-

to Guiness in connection with the offer, of 0.2 per cent of the estimated value of the bid if successful, £3.2 million, subsequently had been paid to him.

He claimed payment credit for, among other credits, the Management Committee to allow Guinness to bid for Distillers, for persuading some reluctant directors of Guinness to persevere with the bid and for persuading Distillers to pay Guinness's costs in connection with the bid should it prove unsuccessful.

Article 90 of Guinness's articles provided: "The board shall fix the annual remuneration of the directors..."

Article 91 provided: "The board may, in addition to the remuneration authorized in article 90, grant special remuneration to any director who serves on any committee or who devotes special attention to the business of the company or who otherwise performs services which in the opinion of the board are outside the scope of the ordinary duties of a director..."

Articles 90 and 91 departed from the Table A articles recommended by statute, which reserved the right to determine directors' remuneration to the company in general meeting, but by article 91 special remuneration for an individual director could only be authorized by the board.

A committee, which might consist of only two or three members, could not, however, honestly and conscientiously, assess impartially the value of its work or the value of the contribution of its individual members. Article 91 authorized the board, and only the board, to grant special remuneration to a director who served on a committee.

Article 2, which defined "the board" as "the directors of the company for the time being... or any committee authorized by the board to act on its behalf", did not operate to produce a result inconsistent with the language, the subject and the context of article 91.

Only the board had had power to award £5.2 million to Mr Ward, Article 101 did not enable the board to delegate the power to award remuneration to a director.

The law could not, and equity would not, amend Guinness's articles. The court was not entitled to usurp the functions conferred on the board by the articles.

Equity had no power to relax its own strict rule further than and inconsistently with the express relaxation contained in the articles. A shareholder was entitled to compliance with the articles.

In *Philips v Boardman* ([1964] 1 WLR 933), Mr Justice Wilberforce, approved by the House of Lords ([1967] 2 AC 46), had decided that in exceptional circumstances a court of equity might award remuneration to a trustee. Thereafter, it was an act of equity to award remuneration to a director.

As at present advised, his Lordship was unable to envisage circumstances in which a court of equity would exercise a power to award remuneration to a director when the relevant articles conferred that power to the board. Certainly, the circumstances did not exist in the present case.

Solicitors: Calow Easton; Herbert Smith.

There was a fundamental

objection to the admission of any claim by Mr Ward, whether based on article 100(D), a *quantum meruit*, section 727 of the Companies Act 1985 or the powers of a court of equity.

It was that by the agreement with the committee, which was the foundation of his claim to any relief, he had voluntarily involved himself in an irreconcilable conflict between his duty as a director and his personal interests.

Section 317 of the 1985 Act showed the importance that the legislature attached to the principle that a company should be protected against a director who had a conflict and duty.

Both before and after January 19, 1986, Mr Ward had owned a duty to tender to Guinness impartial advice unimpaired by the possibility of personal gain. By the agreement with the committee, he had deprived himself from giving such impartial and independent advice.

For the purposes of the appeal, it had to be assumed that he had acted in good faith, believing that his services were rendered under contract binding on Guinness, and that in that mistaken belief he might have rendered services to Guinness of great value and contributed substantially to the enrichment of Guinness's shareholders.

Nevertheless, his failure to realize that he could not properly use his position as a director of Guinness to obtain a continuing negotiating fee of £5.2 million did not excuse him or enable him to defeat the rules of equity that prohibited a trustee from putting himself in a position in which his interests and duty conflicted and that insisted that a trustee or any other fiduciary should not make a profit out of his trust.

Finally, Mr Ward was dismissed on Guinness's application in reliance on section 727 of the 1985 Act, which provided that if it appeared to the court that an officer of a company had acted honestly and reasonably and that in all the circumstances he ought fairly to be excused for his negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust the court might award him remuneration without his having to remunerate him to his fiduciary, either wholly or partly.

But, by invoking that section as a defence to Colman's claim for £5.2 million, Mr Ward sought an order of the court that relieved him of his obligation to remunerate without the authority of the board.

That would be a breach of the articles that protected shareholders and governed directors and of the principles of equity to which his Lordship had referred.

Lord Keith and Lord Brandon agreed with Lord Goff delivered a concurring opinion and Lord Griffiths agreed with Lord Templeman and Lord Goff.

Solicitors: Calow Easton; Herbert Smith.

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TICE of **Dorchester**
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auto, royal blue, leather, 16,000 miles, 1988.
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Waste firm wins first NatWest high-tech loan

By Brian Collett

The first loan under a National Westminster scheme for technology-based small businesses was granted today to a company with a newly-patented method of toxic waste disposal.

National Westminster Growth Options, the bank's venture capital subsidiary, set up the Seed Capital Loan fund last May to invest in small technology businesses. The loans are made through another new section, the Technology Unit, which supervises managers, who recommend suitable recipients.

About 30 branch managers have been trained in technology funding by NatWest and Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy and management consultancy firm.

Next month the number will rise to 40. They will be concentrated in technology-dominated areas — Glasgow, Manchester, Cambridge and the M4 corridor particularly.

Growth Options provides loans between £5,000 and £50,000 for up to 10 years to the production and marketing stage, and also takes shares in the enterprises.

Investment for technology is scarce. Mr Duncan Matthews, the Technology Unit senior manager, says: "Venture capitalists have not normally been willing to lend at the smaller end of the market as they consider it may not be cost-effective. Most businesses in this

sector have fewer than 10 employees and the lack of funding has left a gap we think should be filled."

Today's loan, for £32,500, goes to PGJ Environmental Systems of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, to develop its disposal process.

PGJ is approaching government departments for a licence to operate next year. Britain has a two-year stockpile of spent industrial coolant solution for incineration. PGJ's loan is for two years, after which refinancing will be considered. Two more small business technology projects are being assessed.

MR FRIDAY



"I'm getting ready for the single European market!"

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

By Rodney Hobson

Diane Devine used to spend the week before St Valentine's Day making women look beautiful. This year she is gift wrapping chocolates to sell to their husbands.

It is a dramatic switch for a woman who went straight into hairdressing when she left school at the age of 15 and had no other job for 29 years. Not that she is new at starting her own business from scratch.

After 11 years of working for someone else, Mrs Devine spotted a large electrical shop in Ware, Hertfordshire, that was closing down. She converted it into a women's hairdresser and set up shop.

Changing the use of the premises meant there was no existing clientele to draw on, so the whole business had to be started from nothing. Last summer, the battle long since won, she sold out to a member of her staff who had been with her for six years.

Early retirement, however, did not come easy to Mrs Devine. She simply became bored at home. The problem, she admits, was that after running the shop and then leaving that behind, she knew she could not work for anyone else.

Several months later she was shopping in a pedestrian precinct in the centre of Hertford, her home town, and she spotted a kiosk up for rent.

An enterprising developer had realized that a narrow alley at the side of the gas showrooms could be put to profitable use if it had a

chocolates, which are available at only eight outlets in England. Each gift-wrapped pound costs £5.30.

Christmas was hectic as bosses



Devine assistance: Diane Devine helps husbands to provide a sweet touch for wives on St Valentine's Day challenge. If I flop I've only myself to blame. My husband admired me for taking on the venture."

Keeping stock is difficult in only 84 sq ft of space, but Mrs Devine manages to store 20 cases, with deliveries arriving every week from the supplier of Leonidas chocolates.

As she stands amid trays of cherries in kirsch and praline fudge, she takes a philosophical view: "I didn't have a clue when I started, but I don't mind a

challenge. If I flop I've only myself to blame. My husband admired me for taking on the venture."

Keeping stock is difficult in only 84 sq ft of space, but Mrs Devine manages to store 20 cases, with deliveries arriving every week from the supplier of Leonidas chocolates, which are available at only eight outlets in England. Each gift-wrapped pound costs £5.30.

Christmas was hectic as bosses

BRIEFINGS

"Winning the award has increased customer awareness of the company and has helped us break into new markets," says Mr. [redacted]. This is an opinion voiced many times over in the past 20 years by winners of the Export Award for Smaller Businesses. More than £25,000 will be shared by this year's five overall winners. Runners-up will receive certificates of merit. The award is sponsored by Midland Bank, Thomas Cook, the British Overseas Trade Board, Price Waterhouse and Kelly's UK Exports. The closing date for next year's entries is Friday, March 16, and the award is open to independent small British companies which can demonstrate an increase in export earnings over the past two years. These earnings must have exceeded £100,000 in the last year and entrants must employ fewer than 200 people. Application forms for the award can be obtained at the branches, or offices, of the sponsors. Forms are also available direct from the award administrator, Margaret Grigg, Midland Bank, International Trade and Export Finance Department, 110 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6AA (01-260 5647).

The Forum of Private Business has said there will be no let up in its bid for a legal right to interest on overdue commercial debt. The campaign by FPB's support group of 16,645 members also has the backing of Dun and Bradstreet, the world's largest debt collection agency, the Law Societies of England, Scotland and Wales, and 100 trade and professional associations, representing 500,000 firms.

Mr Tom O'Connor has taken up the chairmanship of the Confederation of British Industry's Smaller Firms Council. He succeeds Mr Harry Kleeman. Mr O'Connor, managing director of Elta Plastics, of Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, joined the CBI in 1982. He is a former chairman of the CBI's northern region.

The East German authorities are considering the early introduction of legislation to permit joint ventures with foreign companies.

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CRICKET

A lack of variety in attack remains a worry for Australia

From John Woodcock, Sydney

By following last year's triumphant tour of England with victory in the three-match series against Pakistan, which was wound up here yesterday, Australia may claim, with justification, to be one of the two best sides in the world. That is greatly to their credit, quite apart from being good lot cricket.

Allan Border will be proud of his side. They have worked very hard at their game, and they play as a team. Against anyone but England they lack the authentic speed and quality of spin to win matches easily. But they are catching well and have made more than enough runs in their last 14 Test matches, of which they have won seven and drawn seven, to put all the sides they have met in that time, including West Indies, under pressure.

The next test Australia have to pass comes in the middle of next month when they meet New Zealand in Wellington. It is the only Test match of a short tour, and if Richard Hadlee should be bowing for New Zealand, he has a nasty way of exposing unsuspected weaknesses.

It was a pity that the series with Pakistan had to end in such anti-climax. What had

promised to be an absorbing last match became, instead, the match that never was. It was washed away, with little trace, in Sydney's wettest week for 100 years. But on the evidence of the first two Tests, both excellent games, Australian were unquestionably the stronger, more disciplined, more confident side. Almost always Pakistan seemed to be just hanging on, usually rather desperately.

This is reflected in the fact that Javed Miandad, a brilliant strokeplayer though he is, batted all told for 12 hours 25 minutes for his 190 runs. He gave his time to trying to shore up one innings after another after Pakistan's first three batsmen — Shoaib, Aamir and Rameez — had found Alderman, Hughes and Rackemann too much for them. Miandad, Imran Khan, Wasim Akram and Ijaz Ahmed had, more or less, to carry the Pakistan side, although yesterday Waqar Younis did bowl a lively and decidedly promising spell.

Wasim was the man of the series. When asked to name the best bowler he has faced during his amazingly successful first year in Test cricket, Mark Taylor was in no doubt: "Wasim Akram by a long way

National boards to act on Pakistan walk-off

Sydney (AFP) — The Australian and Pakistani boards decided yesterday they would address the walk-off by Pakistan, last month, in the four-day match against Victoria.

The Pakistani manager, Iftikhar Akbar, led his side off the Melbourne Cricket Ground after the umpire, Robia Ballalache, ruled the off spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed, out of the attack, after two warnings for running on the pitch.

The Australians Cricket Board (ACB) said it had examined a report on the incident by the Victorian Cricket Association, including the 'umpires' and the captains' reports.

FINAL TEST AVERAGES

Australia: Batting and fielding

	M	N	R	W	BB	SI	TOM	Avg	c/rat
M Taylor	5	1	38	10	59	58	105	15.38	1
D M Jones	14	22	200	135	105	2	37.5	15.38	1
AR Border	140	51	267	165	111	1	22.31	-	1
I Aomaly	35	4	22	12	48	1	44.66	27	1
H G Hughes	10	1	27	1	21	1	28.00	12	1
G M Marsh	22	2	67	56	36	1	22.33	2	1
P L Taylor	2	0	34	1	20	1	17.00	-	1
D C Brown	22	4	55	29	29	1	13.75	1	1
S R Marshall	10	1	41	21	11	1	17.00	1	1
T M Alderman	3	2	1	0	0	1	0.00	0	1
C G Rackemann	3	2	1	0	0	1	0.00	0	1
Played in one match: P R Sleath 23; G D Campbell 0; M R J. Played in one match: Salm Masik 11; Suresh Manocha 10; Nadeem Ghauri 5-1-20.									
Bowling	O	M	R	W	BB	SI	TOM	Avg	c/rat
T M Alderman	85.4	52	22	200	135-105	2	15.38	-	1
M G Hughes	140.5	51	267	165-111	1	22.31	-	1	1
G M Marshall	10	1	27	1	21	1	28.00	12	1
Also bowled: A R Border 8-0-5-1; S R Marshall 3-0-19-1; P R Sleath 29-12-7-2; T M Taylor 61-5-14-7-2.									
Compiled by Richard Lockwood									

England show resistance in second innings

From Qamar Ahmed, Napier

Perth — England came within two runs of making Australia bat again in the third and final youth international match here yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). England were bowled out for 272 in their second innings, giving Australia victory by an innings and two runs to complete a 1-0 win in the series.

England resumed on the third morning on 123 for three with Keen and the nightwatchman, Haines, at the wicket. Keen and Haines with the help of 142 and well caught on the leg side by Castle of Oliver, Gough and Butler, who between them made only one half-century on the tour, both went cheaply, but a determined partnership between Noon and Radford took the score to 230 before Radford fell for 36.

Noon's resistance ended two runs later, but Gough and Cork weathered an onslaught by Correll, who eventually had Gough caught to complete an Australian victory.

SCORES: Australia 345 (J C Young 62, B R Radford 61, D L Keen 10, D G Haines 50, D G Gough 45, D P Butler 37, D J Castle 27, P R Cork 60, P G Hodge 44, J P Craven 45; S G Correll 4 for 60, S G Oliver 4 for 95).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Barclays League
Third division
Tranmere v Birmingham
OVIDEN PAPERS
READING v Norwich (2.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER LEAGUE CUP: Final round: Bradford York v St Helens. First division: Warrington v Wigan, Farnworth v Hull KR, Huddersfield v Leeds, Salford v Warrington. Second division: Bradford Northern v Dewsbury.

OTHER SPORT

SWIMMING: Benson and Hedges Masters (Wembury). TENNIS: LTA Men's Challenge (Tatton).

SPORT ON TV

ATHLETICS: Screenport 6-7.30pm Highlights of the 1990 Mobile One Grand Prix.

BADMINTON: Screenport 2-3pm. Highlights of the World Grand Prix finals from Singapore.

BASKETBALL: Screenport 7-8.30pm. American League: European 9-11am and 5-7pm. Highlights from the European circuit.

BOXING: Screenport 11.45am-1.15pm. Promotional event from the United States.

CARDS: Screenport 12-1am. Highlights of the Embassy World Series.

EUROSPORT MENU: Screenport 8.30pm.

CYCLING

Vinnicombe's attack on the kilometre

Sydney — Martin Vinnicombe, the Australian track man who retained his Commonwealth Games kilometre title in Auckland, plans to attack his own world record time of 1min 02.82sec in Perth next month.

SPORT ON FRIDAY: BBC 2-2.45pm. Showbiz: Coverage of the British and American Winter Olympic games. Tennis: Wimbeldon 1.15-2.30pm. Highlights of the 1990 Winter tour.

UPDATE: Screenport 7.30pm.

WATER POLO: Screenport 8.20-10pm. Eurosport 10-11pm. Highlights of France v World All Stars (1989), and Team Pool World.

WIDE WORLD OF SPORT: Screenport 8.30-10.30pm.

• Austyn Shortman, from Bristol, who won two silver relay medals for England at Auckland, has another chance to display his freestyle prowess in the World Cup meeting in Gothenburg this weekend.



Flying greys: Mizma Spring (Brendan Powell, right) keeping Desert Orchid (Richard Dunnedy) company on the first circuit at Wincanton

Desert Orchid tunes up in style

By George Race

Gratefully liberated from the Grand National debate, Desert Orchid yesterday returned to what he does best: winning and winning them handsomely.

After being denied clear opportunities in handicaps at Sandown Park and Ascot, he made the most of a simple task in the Racing in Wessex Chase at Wincanton, beating Barries by 20 lengths with Mizma Spring another length and a half.

Desert Orchid remains 5-2 favourite with Ladbrokes to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup for a second successive year.

"I think he was relieved to have had a race," Desert Orchid's trainer, David Elsworth, said. "That's three times in the last seven days he's been in a horse box and he's used up a fair bit of nervous energy in the process."

"He will need another race before the Gold Cup so we're looking at the Jim Ford Chase here or perhaps the Racing Post Chase at Kempton. We made the right decision to miss Ascot and come here instead, although the racecourse was nowhere near as good."

Desert Orchid remains 5-2 favourite with Ladbrokes to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup for a second successive year.

"It was good to see her hounds," Pipe said. "The final of this series at Newbury next

New Wincanton stand

Wincanton will have a new stand ready in time for the October fixture. It will cost £450,000 of which the Levy Board has provided £175,000 as an interest-free loan.

Foundations are now going in for a completely new three-tier building, facing down the course, to cater for sponsors, corporate entertainment and members. The completion date is August.

Positioned just beyond the judge's box, the traditionally styled building will have three hospitality rooms for a total of 150 people on the ground floor, tiered seating for 132 people on the first floor together with bars, toilet and standing room, while the top level will have seven private boxes each accommodating up to 16 people.

The new stand has also been designed to eliminate any problems for disabled racegoers.

month looks a natural objective for her and I'd try to get in another run beforehand."

Peter Scudamore is likely to ride Pipe's Ambassador, heavily supported anti-post for the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury tomorrow, although the trainer is not certain whether to run him either.

Looking ahead to the Grand National, Pipe said: "I'll be looking to have about three runners in the race, that's why I entered nine. I don't know how they'll line up, they've got to get there first, haven't they?"

Pipe has, by his standards, had a quiet spell with only four winners in the last two weeks.

"There have been one or two little things but nothing we could really put our fingers on. Perhaps it's just the run of the game. You can't win them all."

Jenny Pitman is likely to be at least doubly represented in the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham next month following the emphatic win of Garrison Savannah in the Wincanton Challenge Cup Novices Chase.

Royal Athlete, an impressive winner at Ascot on Wednesday, has this season registered three victories in National Hunt flat races.

"It was good to see her winning form to hurdles," Pipe said. "The final of this series at Newbury next

Cheltenham," said Mrs Pitman, "and he did just that. Mark will decide which one to ride nearer the time but Garrison Savannah is a far better horse on good ground."

Mrs Pitman also had news of

Don Valentine, the 6-1 joint favourite for the Tote Gold Trophy. "He is as well as he can be without a race this season, and the weight going up won't help him," she said. "He'll be out there doing his best but he's not there to be thrashed either."

Mrs Pitman confirmed Toby Tobias a runner in the Byrnes Brothers Compton Chase on the same programme.

Cagnes raiders out in force

Willie Hastings-Bass and Charlie Nelson have their first runnings of the year at Cagnes-Mer today.

Hastings-Bass runs recent Lingfield Park winner Montefiori (John Reid) in the Prix d'Alcock and the royal trainer's Double Encore and Charlie Booth's Bursaria in the Prix du Docteur Gazagnaire.

SWIMMING

Gillingham's eyes on clock at Bonn

From Craig Lord, Bonn

Nick Gillingham, of Birmingham, will seek to wipe out his Commonwealth Games 200m breaststroke defeat when he clashes with a world-class team at the Arena Festival World Cup short course meeting in Bonn this weekend.

Gillingham will face Jon Cleveland, the Canadian who took gold in Auckland. While Strange will be his prime objective this year, it still rankles with him that, in 1985, he let slip a winning opportunity by hitting his second shot at the long 13th into the watery grave known as Rae's Creek.

Faldo will be the defending champion at Augusta where, if the computer is correct, he should arrive in April as the world No. 1, having knocked Greg Norman off that perch.

Strange should have no cause to complain about the course or the condition of the greens here. They are firm, fast and true and the collar of anti-deep routes which surrounds them is reminiscent of that to be found on courses prepared for the US Open. Strange, of course, beat almost 250,000 in the overall.

Strange is well aware that he could confront such a putt, but, like Nick Faldo, Greg Norman and Jumbo Ozaki completing the field, there is every likelihood of the two, all-formatted helping to create a record 'skins' prize. There is around £300,000 in the overall.

Strange emphasized his liking for this form of golf earlier this year when he won a total of \$340,101 against Jack Nicklaus, Raymond Floyd and Lee Trevino in Sydney.

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Strange emphasized his liking for this form of golf earlier

Testing ground to aid Macroom in quest for third course victory

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

No horse will be better suited by the heavy ground at Newbury today than Macroom, who is napped to win the Fairview New Homes Handicap Chase and thereby register his third victory at the Berkshire track.

All of Macroom's other victories have been gained at Lingfield where the ground was invariably bottomless in mid-winter prior to the advent of an all-weather track.

Last time out at Ascot, the Stan Mellor-trained eight-year-old found the ground a bit too lively when he finished only third behind his stable companion Zuko and Ballymire in a handicap for which he started favourite on the strength of his runaway win over today's course and distance at the end of last year.

On that occasion he won by 12 lengths from Steeple View, who was by no means disgraced at Warwick next time

The meeting at Newbury today goes ahead, provided there is no deterioration in the weather.

out when going under by 2½ lengths to Pharaoh's Laen who had won his previous race easily.

Steeple View repossesses Macroom this afternoon but, on only 8lb better terms, I still think him beating my nap.

Boraceva would constitute a much greater danger here if only he could get his act together again. When he won his last four races last season he revealed that he had more than sufficient stamina to cope with the sort of conditions that he will encounter this afternoon.

However, this season he has fallen twice prior to finishing a remote fourth behind Toby Tobias at Wincanton on Boxing Day.

In the circumstances, Macroom looks much the better bet as Door Latch, L'Ane Rouge, Field Conqueror and Pucks Place also

will have to improve considerably on recent efforts if they are to beat him on these terms.

Silver King, who won by a distance at Newton Abbot three weeks ago when the going was equally heavy, now looks a fair bet to win the Stroud Green Hurdle for the racing company organised by Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore.

After spending his formative days in France where he was successful over 1½ miles in the Flat, Silver King was beaten three-quarters of a length by Star Of The Glen when he made his British debut over today's course and distance in December.

He should take care of that horse now on 5lb better terms, but while Able Leader, Leigh Boy and Man For All Seasons could prove troublesome, I still think that Silver King will be hard to catch in these conditions.

Sprawson Boy, Ickdam and Predominate are three out-and-out mudlarks who will

relish the conditions in the Cricklade Handicap Hurdle. Yet I still doubt them bearing Ghofer, who won the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup on his last visit to the track.

Following a couple of promising runs over fences, for The Grain should manage to wind the Aldermaston Novices' Chase for David Nicholson and Richard Dunwoody but his stable companion Duntree could well be foiled by Devil's Valley in his attempt to win the Highland Spring Novices Hurdle.

At Sedgfield, I like the look of The Matilda's chance of winning the Ramside Handicap Chase after twice finishing a close second, each time when out of the handicap.

Further north at Ayr, Candlebright (145), Lothian Admiral (215) and Tarbat Tabard (315) can reward followers of Gordon Richards's stable with a treble.

Sanballat has smart Irish form

By Brian Beel

It may be expecting too much of Deep Prospect, unbeaten in four races in 1988 when with Mercy Rimell, make a winning comeback for his new stable after an absence of two years.

I am looking forward to David Nicholson-trained SANBALLAT to land the Charles Higgins Hunters' Chase (3.30) at Newbury today.

In Ireland last season, he landed a gamble in his first point-to-point, he then beat the Downpatrick hunter chase winner Third Edition very easily in his second before ending the season with a fine win in a maiden hunter chase at Down Royal by a distance.

At Sedgfield, I like the look of The Matilda's chance of winning the Ramside Handicap Chase after twice finishing a close second, each time when out of the handicap.

The 12-year-old was found to be lame in his off-leg after completing his final leg of work for the new season recently at his trainer Jerry Campbell's farm in Pluckley, Kent.

Certain Light out for season

Certain Light, the champion hunter chaser of 1988, is out for the season.

The 12-year-old was found to be lame in his off-leg after completing his final leg of work for the new season recently at his trainer Jerry Campbell's farm in Pluckley, Kent.

Morley Street out of Wessel Hurdle

Morley Street, 6-4 favourite for the Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown tomorrow, has been confirmed as a definite non-starter.

He also misses the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury tomorrow for the same reason as possible.

Toby Balding said: "I just didn't work quite as well as I wanted him to on Tuesday. He's got a raised white tail count, which would indicate some sort of minor infection."

Morley Street will now go for the Kinsella Hurdle at Wincanton on Saturday 22 February in preparation for a tilt at the Champion Hurdle.

Balding revealed that around half a dozen horses at his Fyfield House stable are coughing but the star Beech Road, 7-4 favourite to retain his Champion Hurdle crown, is unaffected.

He pencilled in for the "National Spirit" Challenge Trophy at Cheltenham on Saturday 25 February.

Cecil Shot was running over three miles for the first time in an attempt to test his stamina potential for a possible tilt at this year's chasing blue riband.

Cecil Shot was reported to be in good shape after his heavy fall in the Old Securities Reynoldstown Novice Chase at Ascot on Wednesday.

"He's got a bit of a cut on his near-front pastern, but otherwise he's fine," said his trainer, Charlie Brooks.

The former champion hurdler effectively ruled himself out of the Gold Cup and will now probably go for the Arde Challenge Trophy.

The former champion hurdler effectively ruled himself out of the Gold Cup and will now probably go for the Arde Challenge Trophy.

Southwell sunk by flood water

Racing at Southwell's all-weather track yesterday was called off — in bright sunshine.

Following earlier rainstorms, water was still lying on the course in three places, 40 minutes before the first scheduled race. The stewards decided to call off the meeting minutes after 1pm.

This was the first time that the fibresand surface has failed to cope with conditions. Fog caused the abandonment of the race on November 14.

Course manager Jane Groves only informed the Press Association at 12.40 — after the first precautionary inspection at 12.30 — but had been in touch with the course stewards since early morning.

Neighbouring farms and factories answered an SOS with pumps to fight back the water, but they could not do the job in time.

Mrs Groves stressed the track was clear at 8 am, but shortly after water was discovered and pumping started at 8.30.

"We were confident we were going to race" said Mrs Groves. "It is always difficult in a situation like this to know how long it will take to pump off the water."

However, it was stressed that the all-weather surface had drained properly, but due to the water table being so high, there was nowhere for the surplus water to be dispersed.

NEWBURY

Selections
By Mandarin

1.30 For The Grain.
2.00 Devil's Valley.
2.30 MACROOM (nap).

3.00 Silver King.
3.30 Flarey Flare.
4.00 Gholar.

By Michael Seely
1.30 For The Grain. 2.30 MACROOM (nap). 3.00 Silver King.

Going: heavy (soft in straight)

1.30 ALDERMASTON NOVICES CHASE (23,678; 2m 160yd) (10 runners)

101 346851 ARTIFUL ABBOT (5f) (P Thompson) J Webber 6-11-1 —
102 346852 BARKER'S BROTHER (5f) (P Thompson) M Lynch 6-11-1 —
103 346853 CAPTAIN OF THE CROWN (5f) (A Chapman) D Gondola 6-11-1 —
104 111122 FOR THE GRAIN (5f) (D.F.M.) D Nicholson 6-11-1 —
105 111122 HIGHFIRE 6F (G) (Monsarrat) O'Farrell 6-11-1 —
106 265430 PLASTIC SPACEAGE 18 (Spaceage Plastic) Ljouw 7-11-1 —
107 469140 STRICTLY BUSINESS 23 (P.D.F.) C Popham 6-11-1 —
108 522920 FISHING SMACK 20 (G.L.S.) P Haywood 10-11-1 —
109 522921 FISHING SMACK 20 (G.L.S.) P Haywood 10-11-1 —
110 BETTING: 10-11 For The Grain, 11-12 Royal Pavilion, 12-13 Artful Abbot, 6-11 Wistow Yeoman, 11-12 Strictly Business, 15-16 others.

1986: JUVENILE LIGHT 8-16 P Soudanis (4-7 fav) R Abhurst Gran

FORM FOCUS ARTIFUL ABBOT won on flat over hurdles last season, beating Sagart 1½ at Newbury (2m 4f, heavy). He has come up 2nd to Young Snug at Kempton (2m, good) when 112nd to Canteen Style over the same course (2m 4f, good). May face an easier task here. HIGHFIRE 6F (G) (Monsarrat) O'Farrell, 11-12 others.

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hurdles at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm). Although beaten 111 by Abt, was later awarded the race.

ROYAL PAVILION ran over hurdles at Newbury (2m 100yds, good) in November, staying on to 21st place.

FISHING SMACK, consistent if one-paced, finished 12th 2nd to Cash in King at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft) last month.

ARTIFUL ABBOT is ridden to beat Good Spark, while others, by 31st Plumpton (2m, soft) instead, should be beaten. HIGHFIRE 6F (G) (Monsarrat) O'Farrell, 11-12 others.

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TOMORROW'S SPORT

By John Goodbody
and David Hands

Thieves have demanded a £100,000 ransom for nearly 400 tickets for next week's England v Wales rugby union international, which were stolen from a safe belonging to Mike Burton, the former British Lion.

Burton, who runs a sports promotion company, Mike Burton Management, in Gloucester, is seeking replacements for the tickets to satisfy his clients, many of whom had planned to go to Twickenham next week on corporate hospitality packages.

"I had orders for all those tickets and it is going to be hard to find enough to keep everyone happy," he said. The

thieves removed the safe from the wall of his city-centre office and a few hours after discovering the theft, Burton found a handwritten note pushed through his office door demanding £100,000 for the return of the safe and tickets, which had a face value of up to £18 but are worth several times more on the black market.

Burton said: "I know tickets for England v Wales are valuable, but not that valuable. We were asked to put a signal in the window indicating whether we were willing to pay up. We tried it in the hope of catching them but nothing happened."

Detective Sergeant David Turner, of Gloucester Police, said that the safe had been

removed by "brute force".

Rugby supporters are being warned not to buy tickets on the black market and the police appealed for information from anyone who has been offered tickets for the match.

Burton must be in a quandary about telling the Rugby Football Union exactly which tickets are missing. He would have bought them from several sources and would be loath to give the governing body the information that might help to identify the supplier. The RFU explicitly warns clubs, schools and its constituent bodies that tickets should not be resold for a profit.

This is the second disaster to hit Burton's business this year. Last month, he had to spend £30,000 on alternative

air travel for clients going to an international match in Dublin, after the collapse of an airline which was to have taken them.

Dudley Wood, the Rugby Football Union secretary, said: "We take a keen interest in this matter. We would not be surprised if Mike Burton had obtained several hundred tickets. We know the size of his operation and that he has close contacts with a number of clubs, for whom he may make speeches in return for tickets."

"But we do not know which tickets he has laid his hands on, though we should like to know the ticket numbers if they are recovered. What will happen to his hospitality marquee near the ground I do

not know, but there is nothing we can do."

The RFU has been working to reduce the black-market element involved in international match days at Twickenham, and is particularly concerned this season since the ground capacity is reduced to 51,000 because of the rebuilding of the North Stand.

"We are inundated with letters from people who are extremely cross at not getting tickets," Wood added. "Demand is five times our capacity this season and people are very frustrated when they see a black-market operation at work."

"I would prefer that we did not have people buying black-market tickets turning up here, but we think that, even if

we have not been winning the war, we have been making life extremely difficult for the operators, a number of whom have pulled out."

Two years ago, at the equivalent international, hundreds of businessmen were upset when a hospitality company failed to provide the tickets it had promised. The Macclesfield organization was forced to sell its clients during lunch in a marquee before the game that the tickets were not available and hundreds of people had to watch the match on television.

Many hospitality compa-

nies rely on the flourishing black-market business to obtain tickets for big sports events in Britain, including the FA Cup final and Wimbledon.

"Only when the doctors have looked at the injury will we be able to say exactly how long she will have to rest," Horst Schmitt, Graf's press spokesman, said. "But Steffi is going to be forced out of the game for the third time."

Graf was scheduled to play a cameo role alongside other sporting champions such as Niki Lauda and Florence Griffith-Joyner in a film called *Fire, Ice and Dynamite*, produced by Willi Bogner, the West German director. But earlier in the day, while on the nursery slopes, attempting to escape from photographers she tripped and fell on her right hand.

She was immediately taken to St Moritz General Hospital where her right arm was put in plaster and from there back to West Germany for specialist treatment.

Bates shows his frailty

Jeremy Bates, who beat Yannick Noah in the first round of the Stella Artois indoor tournament in Milan, was brought down to earth by Jakob Hlasek yesterday. The big Czech-born Swiss player beat the British No. 1 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to reach the third round, leaving Bates to reflect once again on unfulfilled promise.

The match turned on one break in each set and one or two stray points, none more important than in the second

game of the third set when Bates led 40-15 only to be broken.

"It was such a tight match, the whole outcome depended on a few points here and there," Bates said.

RESULTS: FIFTH round: J Bates (GB) b Y Noah (Fr), 7-5, 3-6, 10-8; J McNamee (Irl) b C Gornet (USA), 6-1, 4-6, 6-3. Second round: J Courier (USA) b K Novak (Cz), 6-4, 6-2, 6-3; P Sampras (USA) b M Zonca (Wls), 6-1, 7-6, 6-3; E John (Wls) b H Staff (Aust), 7-5, 4-6, ret; J Haas (Switzerland) vs Bates, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Beverage sponsors elude curb

By John Goodbody

The drinks industry has survived a ministerial move to curtail its sponsorship of sport, worth at least £18 million a year.

A meeting of the Government's Committee on Alcohol Abuse has instead asked Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, to meet the Portman Group, representing the drinks industry, in an attempt to get companies to promote low-alcohol brands.

Moynihan has always defended the right of drinks companies to have an unlimited annual budget for sponsorship. Some ministers would prefer an agreement between the Government and the companies restricting the amount. This is what occurs with tobacco sponsorship, with only about £2 million now being spent every year.

Research Services Ltd, the company that monitors figures in Britain, estimated that last year about £18 million, just under one-tenth of the total, came from drinks companies.

At its meeting on Wednesday, the Government committee decided it wanted companies to extend their promotion of low-alcohol brands, rather than for them to replace the beverages they at present use for sponsorship.

The Health Education Council said in August 1988 that it found any sponsorship by alcohol companies "inappropriate", stating: "The use of sport to raise the profile of alcohol helps drink to be seen more favourably and to be seen to be more socially acceptable."

Some sports, which have a particularly youthful image, such as gymnastics, swimming and volleyball, have a policy of not seeking sponsorship from drinks companies.

National is taken off the agenda

By George Rae

There will be no Aintree challenge from Desert Orchid this year. "The joint-owners and myself have decided that Desert Orchid will miss the Grand National," David Elsworth, the horse's trainer, said at Wincanton yesterday.

"He will be withdrawn at the next forfeit stage on Tuesday," Elsworth added. "He goes for the Cheltenham Gold Cup and then for either the Whitbread Gold Cup or possibly the Irish Grand National, depending on how he comes out of Cheltenham."

The decision ends the arguments which have surrounded Desert Orchid's possible participation, although there is the long-term probability that he will be entered for the National next year.

Richard Burridge, part-owner of last year's Gold Cup hero, who leaves for Australia on a business trip today, has become increasingly disturbed by the media pantomime which has enveloped the issue.

After Desert Orchid had won at Wincanton yesterday, he said: "The whole circus was in danger of getting out of hand. I've always said it was unlikely that Desert Orchid would go for the National this year and I felt that unless we made up our minds there was no telling where it would end."

"All owners and trainers have discussions about their horses but our every move has had to be conducted and discussed in public."

Elsworth has made no secret of his belief that this is the year in which Desert Orchid could have conquered the Aintree course. But the owners have never shared that certainty. It is they who have had the last word.

Wincanton victory, page 36

Stolen tickets offered for ransom

Sebastian Coe: the past and the future

In THE TIMES tomorrow, Sebastian Coe writes the first of two exclusive articles that provide a remarkable insight into athletes and athletics. How does he view his rivals in a dozen years in international sport? Whom does he select as the best of the new generation of British athletes?

Graf out for six weeks after skiing accident

By Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent

Steffi Graf will be out of tennis for at least six weeks after breaking her right thumb in a skiing accident in St Moritz. Graf was due to see a specialist in Heidelberg today to decide if an operation is needed, but the world champion will have to pull out of tournaments in Boca Raton and Key Biscayne next month.

Either way, Graf will be out of action for at least six to eight weeks, which will certainly prove a blessing to her rivals and could even prove a blessing to the Wimbledon champion. By her own admission, Graf was short of motivation and not at her best in the Australian Open last month, despite defending her title for the third time.

Graf's initial aim is to be back in time for a tournament at Hilton Head in the first week of April, but the enforced rest could prove to be the best preparation possible in her build-up to the French Open in May and to Wimbledon in June.

Another loss for tennis followers is that in missing the tournament in Boca Raton, in March, Graf will also miss a possible rendezvous with Jennifer Capriati, who will be making her long-awaited professional debut just before her fourteenth birthday.

England call up untested Lewis as replacement

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Castries, St Lucia



Lewis preferred to Watkin

half of last season is under control.

Even if one accepts this premise and disregards the further uncertainty imposed on a team with more than its share of injury concerns, the selection is a further rebuff to Watkin. He carried a weak Glamorgan attack on his young shoulders last summer, earned high praise and never broke down.

No one in the country took more than his total of 94 first-

class wickets and, despite having to bowl at unhelpful times and for long spells (something which Lewis seldom had to do in a far more experienced attack), he took 25 apiece.

"He was over-bowled" was Stewart's judgement. This does scant credit to a man who undercomplainingly got through almost 800 overs, as opposed to the 300 by Lewis.

The choice only concerned Lewis and Watkin and was, according to Stewart, "very close". Gooch, the captain, may have been a wavering. He sees a lot of Neil Foster in Watkin and was impressed by his strength and control last year. When Essex played Leicestershire at Grace Road last September, Gooch scored 158; Lewis returned two for 137.

Lewis was born in Guyana, which means that, despite Ellcock's departure, England have a player from each of four Caribbean countries.

Paris — The international sporting boycott of South Africa will not be lifted until apartheid is ended, according to Fekret Kitane, chairman of the International Campaign against Apartheid in Sport (AFPS) reports.

The city magistrates had refused permits to demonstrate, both against the pro- and anti-tour factions. The former limited themselves to an aeroplane that joined the police helicopters overhead as it trailed a banner in support of the Englishmen.

Tour opponents had a harder time. Mini-buses picking up protesters three miles away in the township of Alexandra were stopped and the passengers returned home. Later some 2,000 people were stopped; they refused to negotiate and were dispersed with tear gas. Police alleged that the media had tried to transport potential demonstrators to the ground, while the British anti-tour action.

As to the cricket, the English XI played it very safe indeed: neither Thomas nor Dilley was risked, and an extra batsman was included. They never looked comfortable and Donald bowled him off his body in the fifth over. Snell improved in a later one.

Fraser did break an opening stand of 73 when Darwin Telemaque, a name fit for heroism in the pages of Barbara Cartland, was leg-before, a fourth look distinctly possible.

He narrowly failed. John had scored 83 out of 138, batting for 160 minutes, when he fell just before tea, hitting around a ball angled into him

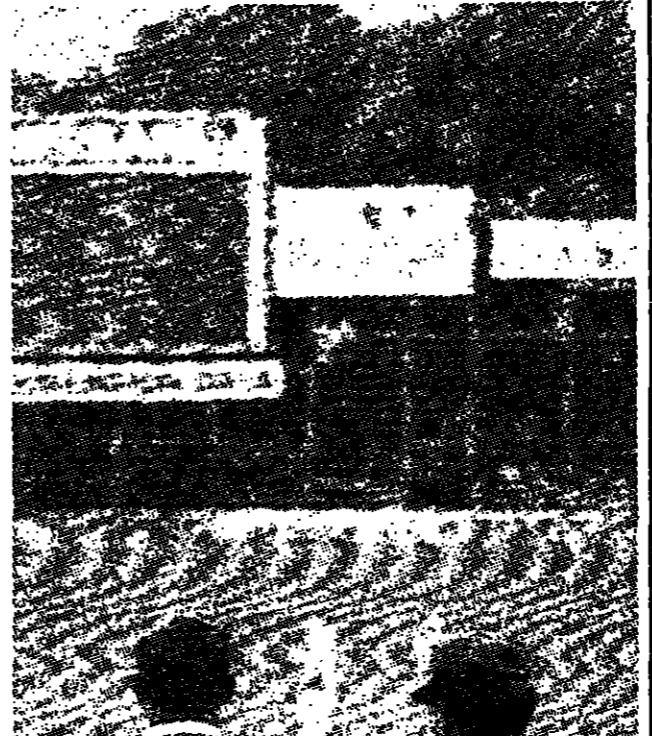
by DeFreitas, operating round the wicket. By this time, the England attack had been made to look distinctly indifferent.

To make matters worse for the touring team, all three of the quicker bowlers suffered persistent run-up problems, the no-balls tally at one stage approaching 20 per cent of the Windwards' total. Angus Fraser, not a regular offender, over-stepped more than any-

Dampening the spirits on and off the field

Weather forces a gloomy start

From Richard Streeton
Johannesburg



Unhappy Wanderers: police prepare themselves for action

spill, but Jennings, the South African wicketkeeper, still had to dive around a good deal.

Broad and Robinson had their moments of luck, but hung on 81 runs were added in 34 overs. In poor light, McMillan's late breakthrough was a just reward for a player who always seemed to be scheming more than his colleagues. Robinson, known as a poor hooker, was tempted to try the stroke, and spooned a catch to long leg. Then Broad fended at a rising ball that left him and was caught behind

after an innings which lasted for 47 overs.

ENGLAND XI: First innings
C G Broad c Jennings b McMillan 48
C J Jaffray b Donald 3
C W Anderson c & b McMillan 3
M W Goss not out 7
A P Wells not out 20
Extras (4, 1b, 1w, 5) 25
Total (3 wkt) 113
K W Abbott, J E Emburey, B N French, N M Elson, N A Foster and P W Jarvis to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-98, 3-108.
BOWLING: Donald 15-6-24-1 (wt); Snell 15-7-22-2 (wt); Anderson 11-2-22-2 (wt); Jennings 6-1-10-1 (wt); Rutherford 4-0-10-0 (wt); Rutherford, K C Wessels, P N Kristen, R T Palmer, A P Kuper, B M McMillan, P J Jennings, D B Rondo, R P Seal, A A Donald.
Umpires: C Liebenberg and J Peacock.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Two short for rugby

Albert Ferrasse, president of the French Rugby Federation (FFR), has taken renewed court action to prove that the professional 13-a-side game is not simply rugby. Ferrasse has issued a writ on his league counterparts ordering them to drop the word rugby from their official title. If not, they will be liable to a fine of 500 francs (£50) for every day they ignore the order.

Capel extracted some response from the pitch in a lengthy spell after lunch but whenever he over-pitched John drove him through the on side with an upright elegance which belied his modest career record.

WINDWARD ISLANDS: First innings
L T Durand, D R Murray, D C Corry, T Z Kestin, W L Thomas and B A Allen to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-73, 2-138.

ENGLAND XI: G A Gooch, W Larke, A J Smith, R A Smart, A J Lloyd, D C Corry, T Z Kestin, W L Thomas and B A Allen to bat.

Runners tested

Jim Scarlett, the Pontypridd lock has been banned for five weeks by the Welsh Rugby Union after being sent off for punching against Glamorgan Wanderers.

Tigers' task

Bracknell Tigers, the defending Coco Cola cup holders, have been drawn against Kingston, the Carisbrook League leaders, in the second semi-final at the London Arena on March 24. The winners meet either Derby or Sunderland in the final the following day.

Runners tested

Runners in the England Schools' cross-country championships, at Wadebridge, Cornwall, will be selected at random for drug-testing next month.

Touring pro

Christy O'Connor jun has been appointed touring golf professional to the new Shale Hall Club, near Hexham, Northumberland, on a five-year contract.

Kids from the local

lloyd's payout

Hitchin's loss

Lack of financial backing for the first Refuge Assurance League due to be staged at Hitchin has forced Northamptonshire to switch their fixture against Glamorgan on June 10 back to headquarters.

Out of favour

Alan Cooke, the national champion, is dropped from the